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29 July Middle East and South Asia Review

LD2907132088 [Editorial Report]

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Military Situation—Tehran radio announced that Iranian forces recaptured the towns of Eslamabad-e Gharb and Karand 28-29 July, inflicting over 1,000 casualties and capturing a "large number" of prisoners. IRNA claimed that the Iranian forces knocked out 200 tanks and 700 personnel carriers in the battles against Iraqi forces and Mojahedin-e Khalq "mercenaries."

An Iranian military communique broadcast by Tehran radio asserted that over 4,000 Iraqis and "mercenaries" were killed or wounded in earlier fighting around Eslamabad-e Gharb. The mojahedin casualties included women and girls, IRNA noted.

Iran's claimed successes west of Bakhtaran were again disputed by the Mojahedin-e Khalq, whose clandestine radio announced that the Iranian National Liberation Army inflicted some 40,000 casualties on Iranian Government forces since 25 July, INA reported. The mojahedin radio acknowledged that fighting was continuing around the outskirts of Eslamabad and Karand.

As for Iraqi military activity, a communique carried by Baghdad radio reported that two Iranian helicopters were destroyed in further Iraqi air strikes on Iranian heliports in the Bakhtaran area.

Regarding the extent of Iranian mobilization, Tehran radio announced that the finance minister, the governor of the Central Bank, and hundreds of their subordinates were among those who have departed for the battlefronts.

Diplomatic Developments—In an interview with Tehran television, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said he has given the UN secretary general "irrefutable" evidence that the Iraqis are "lying" when they claim to have withdrawn to the international border, and that their forces will continue to intrude inside Iranian territory. Iraqi warplanes continue to drop chemical bombs on Iran, he said, adding that this is "completely contradictory to Iraq's claims that it is cooperating fully with the secretary general."

Tehran radio earlier cited Velayati as saying that Iran will "not accept any conditions imposed by Iraq," though it will do its utmost to cooperate if the secretary general requests "more facilities."

For Iraq's part, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'dun Hammadi told foreign diplomats that his country supports an early and urgent cease-fire, INA noted, and he claimed that Iraq's demand for direct talks is aimed at "speeding up" the process of reaching peace.

In an editorial cited by INA, Baghdad's AL-JUMHURIYAH viewed the Iranian leaders' acceptance of Resolution 598 as "a tactical maneuver to bring about a temporary truce which they will exploit to catch their breath and reorganize their remnants to resume their policy of aggression and expansion."

In Moscow, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov discussed ways to end the war and prospects for Soviet-Iranian relations during talks with the Iranian ambassador, TASS reported, noting that the meeting was held at the latter's request.

Jordan and the Occupied Territories

A Cabinet statement broadcast by Amman radio announced Jordan's decision to terminate its development plan for the occupied territories and dissolve all the committees working within the framework of the plan.

Jordan will nevertheless continue its contacts with Arab and friendly governments to encourage them to help promoting Palestinian development projects, the statement added, and Jordan will continue to play its national role as a "confrontation state" and as a "principal party" to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

On the reasons for the cancellation of the development plan, the Cabinet said the decision will enable the PLO to shoulder its responsibility fully, remove doubts about Jordan's real position, and put an end to charges that Jordan's motives for supporting the Palestinian people under occupation are "suspect."

The decision is in line with King Husayn's speech at the Algiers summit, in which he stressed that Jordan has no designs or ambitions over Palestinian territory, and it also corresponds to the desires and wishes of the PLO, the statement said.

For the PLO's part, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf stressed that Jordan's "domestic measure" will not affect Jordanian-Palestinian relations, and he said Jordan will give further explanations during PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat's upcoming visit to Amman, MENA noted.

In the occupied territories, Nabulus personality Sa'id Kan'an told Jerusalem radio's Arabic service that the PLO leadership will be pleased with the decision, noting that Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories were concerned about possible "political objectives" behind the development plan.

He indicated that cancellation of the plan will have little economic impact because "there were no true processes to finance it" and the funds available through it were "very scarce." In contrast, the radio carried an interview with former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa, who urged

Jordan to reconsider its decision, stressing that he does not want the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank to feel that Jordan has abandoned them.

Discussing Jordan's decision in an interview with IDF radio, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres contended that Israel could have negotiated with Jordan on the basis of the "so-called London document," but this did not happen because "someone here prevented it."

According to Tel Aviv's DAVAR, Likud ministers viewed the Jordanian announcement as confirmation that the "Jordanian option" no longer exists as a basis for Arab-Israeli negotiations.

Israel

Relations With USSR—Commenting on the Israeli consular delegation's arrival in Moscow, a Soviet Foreign Ministry official cited by Moscow radio's Arabic service stressed the "purely technical" nature of the visit, noting that meetings with Soviet officials are "not included in the program."

The spokesman said the Israeli delegation's visit has "nothing to do" with the issue of resuming diplomatic relations between the two countries, and he emphasized that the USSR's "well-known" stand on this issue remains unchanged.

Nevertheless, the head of the Israeli delegation expressed hope that the mission to Moscow is a "first step" in the process of improving relations between the two countries, according to Jerusalem television. In his interview with IDF radio, Foreign Minister Peres stated that despite the USSR's "cool" attitude toward the delegation's visit, Soviet "deeds" are "constantly improving." Examples of this are the USSR's consent for an international conference without coercive powers, the release of all "prisoners of Zion," and the recent high number of exit visas granted for Jews, Peres said. He indicated that further progress in relations depends on whether Israel can convince the world that "as far as peace is concerned" it is "the leading factor in the region."

View of U.S.-Palestinian Talks—Commenting on the forthcoming talks between U.S. official Richard Murphy and Palestinian personalities, the director general of the prime minister's office told Jerusalem radio that the meeting will only be a "problem" if it includes any Palestinian who admits to being a member of the PLO and has "a certain status" in the organization.

Gaza Death—A 37-year-old Gaza resident died of wounds inflicted by IDF gunfire during an incident 25 July, Jerusalem radio reported. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of his death.

YAR

A presidential decree broadcast by Sanaa radio authorized Prime Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani to form a new cabinet.

Afghanistan

AFP cited a Pakistani press report that mujahidin commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud has negotiated a cease-fire with the Kabul authorities, which have offered him a ministerial post.

However, the story by Peshawar's THE FRONTIER POST was denied by the head of Jamiat-e Eslami, the faction to which Mas'ud belongs, the agency noted. The faction leader said the report is "false and unfounded," adding that Mas'ud is "not in contact with the communists."

Kabul radio reported that a Norwegian woman who recently entered Afghanistan illegally to give medical assistance to "extremist groups" was killed by a mine explosion after being "subjected to violation" by one of the rebels.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat on 'Fourth Phase,' Israel's Losses

JN2607184888 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 Jul 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has affirmed that the giant uprising of our Palestinian people will never stop and will continue until the Zionist occupation is removed. In an address to Palestinian fighters in the Sabra and Shatila martyrs camp in the YAR, brother leader Abu 'Ammar said: The uprising, which has been continuing since last December, is preparing to enter its fourth phase represented by civil disobedience to be followed by a comprehensive strike and disobedience.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar added that since its eruption, the brave uprising has cost the Zionist enemy economic losses estimated at $2 billion.

Fatah's Khalaf Comments on Jordanian Decision

NC2907092388 Cairo MENA in English 0850 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Jeddah, July 29 (MENA)—Salah Khalaf, member of the Central Committee of "Fatah" Movement, asserted that Jordan's decision to cancel its development plan in the occupied lands will not affect Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

In a statement to 'UKAZ newspaper, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] termed Jordan's decision as a "domestic measure," noting that a Jordanian explanation of this decision will be made during a forthcoming visit to Jordan by PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

The PLO welcomes a continuation of Jordan's role towards the Palestinian cause, the Palestinian official said.

PLO Official Cited on Syrian Plan for Palestinians

JN2807120988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0845 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—A ranking Palestinian official has warned against a Syrian plan to 'move' civilian Palestinian groupings from southern Lebanon to areas under control in north Lebanon.

The Palestinian official, PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, said in a press interview with the newspaper AL-THAWRAH, published today, that Syria is preparing itself militarily to move toward Sidon in southern Lebanon to start a Palestinian camps' battle in the south.

He said it was most likely that the preparations will continue until the beginning of next month when the military attack on the camps will take place. On this subject, he referred to a telegram sent from Damascus to the Syrian and allied forces telling them to prepare themselves for a military operation within 10 to 15 days. The Palestinian forces managed to lay their hands on this telegram.

'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad added that the Palestinian leadership gave the details of the Syrian plan to the Arab brothers hoping they would cooperate to confront this terrible scheme in which the roots of the Palestine question are targeted.

Ahmad said the Palestinian leadership will hold a meeting in Tunis soon to discuss the dangers facing the Palestinian camps, their reconstitution, and the holding of a new session of the PNC after the end of the procedural plans. He added that the Palestinian leadership will dedicate one of its meetings' sessions to discussing the recent developments and the reevaluation of relations between the Palestinians and some Arab countries.

Ahmad affirmed that the Palestinian leadership will set a political strategy for itself in light of the stands of some states on what happened specifically in Lebanon and what is being implemented in the form of schemes aimed at withdrawing the Palestinian rifle.

The Palestinian official said the Syrian regime has clearly violated the Amman and Algiers summit resolutions. It has hit the Palestinian camps in Lebanon with the aim of helping to abort the uprising and destroy the achievements of the PLO.

He suggested carrying out a new study on the meanings of the Arab resolutions, adhering to and deviating from these resolutions, and discussing punitive meausres in confronting the various stands, especially punishing deviation from Arab consensus.

Ahmad affirmed that the Iranian role feeds the scheme opposed to the Arab nation through continuing tension, anxiety, and unsettlement, retarding national growth, destroying national faith, creating prejudices, and entrenching parochial sentiments. All this has been achieved in alliance with the leaders of Damascus.

Egypt

Sidqi, Delegation Depart for Amman 29 Jul

NC2907074688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0705 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi left Cairo for Amman this morning at the head of a large delegation to lead Egypt's side to the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Jordanian higher committee.

In a predeparture statement, Dr Sidqi said he is carrying a message from President Husni Mubarak to Jordan's King Husayn dealing with developments in the Middle East, particularly with regard to the Palestinian problem and the Gulf region, within the framework of constant consulations between President Mubarak and King Husayn.

He added that the joint committee will discuss the issue of Egyptian workers in Jordan and some proposals to promote the employment of Egyptian labor there. He noted that an Egyptian delegation had already gone to Amman to study a number of plans in the securities and labor fields. He added that the committee will follow up the implementation of decisions made at the former session of the committee which was held in Cairo.

Replying to a question on the attack by Iranian gunboats yesterday on Kuwaiti fishing vessels which killed 3 Egyptian fishermen and injured another three, Dr 'Atif Sidqi said that the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait is closely following the issue.

The delegation accompanying Dr Sidqi includes Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning; Eng Sulayman Mutawalli, transport and communications minister; Eng Hasaballah al-Kafrawi, housing and new urban communities minister; Eng Mahir Abazah, electricity and energy minister; Eng Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahha, industry minister; Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, Cabinet affairs minister and minister of state for administrative development; Dr Fathi Surur, education minister; Dr Yusri Mustafa; economy and foreign trade minister; and 'Asim 'Abd al-Haq, manpower and training minister.

The preparatory committee for the meetings of the higher committee began its meetings in Amman on Wednesday [27 July] and concluded them yesterday [28 July]. The Egyptian side was led by Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation.

PLO Leaders Urged To Seize Opportunities

NC2907085188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR has urged Palestinian officials to seize three new opportunities to serve their cause and to take a united stand on them without any hesitation. It also calls on them to exploit these opportunities for backing the Palestinian stand in any attempt made to resolve the Palestinian problem and restore peace to the region.

AL-AKHBAR says in its editorial today that the first opportunity is Egypt's willingness to host, in agreement with Jordan, a meeting between U.S. officials and representatives of the Palestinian people in order to carry on a dialogue on the latter's problem and the means of solving it.

It adds that the second opportunity is the Jordanian prime minister's declaration that decisive developments will take place next week in Jordanian-Palestinian relations in implementing the PLO's desire to accentuate the Palestinian identity and to confirm the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people.

The paper adds that the third opportunity is the proposal by the current chairman of the EEC Foreign Ministers Council to invite PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat to meet with the EEC foreign ministers to explain the Palestinian stand and any new proposals to resolve the Middle East conflict.

Paper Denounces 'Judaization' of Jerusalem

NC2907093988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 29 Jul (MENA)—The AL-AHRAM newspaper has urged the international community to speed up its efforts and prevent Israel from implementing its plan to Judaize Jerusalem. The paper described the plan as a crime against the rights of mankind and of the international community at large.

In its commentary today, AL-AHRAM notes that the Knesset's recent approval of the new law which is dubbed "The Development of Jerusalem" simply means that Israel is still determined to torpedo every peace opportunity in the region.

The paper affirms that Israel's ceaseless policy of persecution, including the Judaization of Arab towns and land, will not achieve Israel's security and safety but will rather intensify feelings of hatred and create deep-rooted extremism that harm all sides.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM says that all the violent Israeli practices—killings, arrests, deportations, and displacements—have failed to extinguish the fire of the uprising. On the contrary, these practices fan the fire which has become a thorn in Israel's side, sapping it of its human and economic energy.

Ghali Meets Soviet Officials in Moscow

For Soviet and Egyptian reportage on the visit by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali to the USSR, including meetings with Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation Vladimir Vinogradov, First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, and

Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee A.F. Dobrynin, see the Near East & South Asia section of the 28 July Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Sudan

Paper Interviews Defense Minister in Cairo

LD2807145388 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Jul 88 pp 38, 39

[Interview with Defense Minister Lieutenant General 'Abd al-Majid Khalil by Usamah 'Ajaj in Cairo; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-HAWADITH: In previous interviews with Sudanese politicians about whether a military coup could occur in Sudan they have said that the situation in Sudan does not encourage anyone to embark on anything like that. What is your view of this, especially as you are in charge of the military? And could a coup occur in Sudan?

Khalil: I, in turn, ask: Would a military coup resolve the Sudanese economic problem or complicate the situation in Sudan? I believe that no wise military official would think of a coup. I believe that the situation in Sudan prompts the legitimate democratic situation to continue in order to overcome all the crises and problems in Sudan. But why are we so pessimistic? Is Sudan alone in suffering from an economic crisis? Do the states of the developing world not share the same problems? Do Sudanese debts not constitute a mere fraction of world debts? Political facts after the uprising proved that there were excesses in the use of debts.

But Sudan, with its huge resources, both underground and above ground, is capable of overcoming its economic crisis. In addition, ending the war in the south would help us concentrate on development. The war is exhausting most of our resources. [passage omitted] I emphasize that the military are working in their field to defend Sudan and its security. And under democracy, the military are contented, since this enables them to concentrate on their duties. I also confirm that no one is thinking of a military coup at all.

AL-HAWADITH: There is some optimism about military conditions in the south. Do you visualize an imminent end to this problem? And how is the military situation there now?

Khalil: Conditions in the south are not as bad as they are described by some people for political purposes, or as they are described by Garang. I recently delivered a comprehensive statement to the Constituent Assembly on the true situation in the south. It was clear, and I hid nothing. I said that some isolated areas adjacent to the Ethiopian border were seized by the rebels some time ago. As for the rest of the south, it is still under the full control of the Sudanese Armed Forces.

Southerners have begun to return to the towns to reside after being scattered as they emigrated in large numbers, nearly a million, to Khartoum, Kordofan, and the central province, in pursuit of peace and their livelihood. This proves that southerners do not want war. The war is imposed on them. They find security in the north, not in the area seized by Garang. This also proves that war is not between the north and the south, or between Muslims and Christians. Non-Arab and non-Muslim southerners emigrate to the north in pursuit of their security and livelihood.

AL-HAWADITH: What areas are occupied by Garang and the rebels?

Khalil: Fashla, Al-Jiku, Baybi Bur [names as transliterated], and Bumma.

AL-HAWADITH: What proportion do these areas represent in relation to the entire south?

Khalil: Matters cannot be viewed this way. There are vast areas which are not inhabited. We do not have any forces in these areas because they are merely swamps, and nor does he. There are limited remote areas which do not represent a significant proportion of the entire area of south. Whenever the Sudanese Armed Forces decide to recapture a village or a town, they succeed. It is not difficult to achieve.

AL-HAWADITH: Is this success attributable to the Sudanese Army's abandonment of the plan to confront guerrilla forces like Garang's with regular forces, or is it attributable to foreign aid?

Khalil: The Sudanese Army with its current resources, and under the sublime objective of preserving Sudanese security, is capable of maintaining security in Sudan. Although guerrilla war has a vile nature, involves irregular methods, and could continue to exhaust the Sudanese economy and create a bad security situation, we will eventually prevent any disruption of security or the occupation of any areas by Garang's rebels. I believe that there is no comparison between the regular Sudanese Army, with its capabilities and weapons, and a group of gangs operating on orders from outside.

AL-HAWADITH: Surely real practices and military confrontations have exposed the true face of Garang's rebellion and have shown whether it is an internal movement securing its finance from inside or from foreign quarters?

Khalil: Its aid is 100 percent foreign. We may consider it an internal movement that can be tackled internally. But in his training, securing of staging posts, armament, and moral support Garang depends on foreign aid. There is a broadcast that is also financed by foreign elements. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What is the military's policy on support for Eritrean liberation movements, especially as this could harm Sudanese-Ethiopian relations?

Khalil: These issues will be discussed at the Council of Ministers. Binding resolutions will be issued. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: For a long time there has been a dispute over the joint defense treaty with Egypt. Some say it should be abolished. Others insist that it should remain. What is the position now regarding the treaty?

Khalil: In brief, the position now is that there is a brotherhood charter between Egypt and Sudan which places economic, social, and cultural relations and security aspects in a clear framework with a view to expanding cooperation in these fields. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: During your visit to Cairo you toured some Arab Industrialization Organization factories. How do you assess the Egyptian military industry and Arab cooperation in the field of military industrialization?

Khalil: I believe that the Egyptian military industry is a source of pride for every Arab, especially as it has achieved advancement, prosperity, and sophisticated development. The Arab League drew up a political plan for Arab military industrialization. Egypt has taken important steps in this field, but cooperation ceased under Arab boycott. Egypt has continued to develop this industry. And I believe that had joint Arab efforts continued, Arab industry would have reached a high level and the Arabs would have saved the millions of dollars now being spent on purchasing arms. [passage omitted]

Al-Banna on Negotiations With Garang

JN2807174388 Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum July 28 (SUNA)—Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council Idris al-Banna said Sudan will not [be] participating in peace negotiations with the rebel movement of Colonel John Garang if the movement insists to have their troops enlisted in the Armed Forces.

Al-Banna in a statement today said that Sudan however welcomes such negotiations but without causing prejudice to the democratic institutions in the country without preconditions and dictations.

Tunisia

President Ben Ali Interviewed on Achievements

PM2907091188 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Jul 88 pp22-26

[Interview with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali by 'Irfan Nizam al-Din in Carthage; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-HAWADITH: Mr President, 7 months have elapsed since you assumed power. What have you achieved? How do you assess that period and have you kept the promises you made?

Ben Ali: Brief as that period has been, even in the lives of individuals, not to mention nations, the country has witnessed important measures and resolutions reflecting the contents of our address to the nation on 7 November.

Our first and foremost objective has been national reconciliation. Tunisia, renowned for the harmony of its various social groups and tolerance of its citizens who are united by religion, language, and culture, was going through very difficult circumstances before 7 November. As a result, signs of sedition appeared together with general confusion, fear of the future, and, in the case of many people, even despair.

Out of a desire to strengthen national reconciliation, we, from the very first few days, began taking numerous measures to restore the state's credibility and respect concentrating above all on promoting the spirit of law and order in the state. It was in this context that we abolished the state security court whose constitutionality was in doubt. We also abolished the attorney general's plan and for the first time laid down legal regulations for precautionary detention providing sufficient guarantees for the public. We also released over 4,000 prisoners. Furthermore, the Cabinet recently approved a bill for the ratification of the international agreement regarding torture.

Meanwhile, we turned to the promotion of political relaxation in the country with the equally important second aim of building real democracy in the country. We introduced fundamental changes in the Constitution by abolishing some articles which ran contrary, in letter and spirit, to the democratic line. That included abolition of presidency for life and automatic succession. A law has recently been promulgated regulating political parties in implementation of the the multiparty system in the country.

As the press is one of the main pillars of the democratic exercise, we invited all the country's patriotic forces to draft a national charter specifying the main principles which should act as the common denominator for all the political and social organizations to safeguard the nation's unity, independence, and impregnability.

At the social level, we have endeavored to create the right atmosphere to help all trade unionists to resolve differences and overcome the deteriorating state of the workers' organization, to organize the structures of the General Federation of Tunisian Workers, and to devise new methods of work in line with the modern concept of trade unionism. This concept necessitates viewing the interests of the workers in the context of the country's higher interests and future and in the present circumstances of economic difficulties and major challenges.

That brings me to the economic situation. Despite the difficult natural conditions we have faced, particularly the serious drought and the locust invasion, we have approved a series of measures to reactivate the economy

and restore the confidence of businessmen to enhance investment and employment, including material and financial incentives in various sectors. [passage omitted]

In foreign affairs, we have concentrated our efforts on several interlinked aspects with the primary objective of restoring Tunisia's good standing in international circles and giving it the projection and light it deserves. We have been doing that through intensive contacts with various states, bilateral exchange of visits, and participation in Arab and African summit conferences.

In the same vein, we have made efforts to help clear the atmosphere among the Arab Maghreb states out of our conviction that the future of these states depends on the extent of their success in laying down fixed and strong foundations for cooperation and integration capable of facing up to crises and achieving gradual development in the interest of all states of the region. We have the same objectives in Arab and African relations and we will continue our efforts along this road, however long and difficult it may be.

These are the broad outlines of our work since 7 November. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: After this comprehensive assessment, we must go into some details. After the recent changes in the ruling party, including its new name, what steps will you take to restore its strength? Will you encourage competition in a multiparty system? How do you view relations with other parties and will there be room for new parties?

Ben Ali: Ever since we assumed power in Tunisia we have been eager to introduce important changes in the country's political life and to give it a democratic system guaranteeing, for all sectors of Tunisian society, regardless of views and inclinations, the right of free democratic exercise of political activity within the legitimate and constitutional framework.

This means that the ruling political organization, namely the Democratic Constitutional Grouping, is urged to react to this new situation and to accept the principle of free honest competition as the basis of its relations with other political parties and organizations in accordance with the law on parties which is the only authority and criterion for all organized political party activity. [passage omitted]

On the question of recognizing new political parties, we are serious in continuing to pursue democratic principles and, accordingly, do not object to the formation of any political party whose objectives do not run contrary to the spirit of the Tunisian Constitution and which is committed to operate within the legitimate and legal framework.

Our determination to be clear and frank in drafting the law on parties is evidence of our desire to open the way for all movements which believe in democracy and which reject the methods of using, simply as a cover, the principles which we consider to be the essence of our identity and a common denominator for all Tunisians, with no room for monopoly by any side. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: We are talking about the future, but, Mr President, let us go back in time a little. I have noticed that you have rehabilitated some historic Tunisian figures who participated in the national struggle and you have done this at a time when some people are trying to eliminate the traces of former President Habib Bourguiba, for example, by destroying his statues and changing the names of streets in some towns. What do you think of these actions and how do you view Bourguiba's position?

Ben Ali: I want to assure you that leader Bourguiba "is living better than I am." We have secured all means of comfort and luxury for him so that nothing changes for him. We provide him with all the doctors and nurses he needs. He is treated in a manner that becomes his position and his personal history. We have assigned someone to read Arabic and French newspapers to him every morning. His doctor visits him every day. [passage omitted]

As regards your question about my own opinion, I have always said that Bourguiba is a part of history and that nobody can erase or distort history. This explains our treatment of the former president and our view of him. We carried out the 7 November movement when Tunisia was on the brink of the abyss. President Bourguiba had, regrettably, aged and his health had deteriorated to a point where he could no longer run the affairs of the country or the public, as his doctors and those in a position to know would testify.

The situation was exploited by a few individuals who, pursuing their own interests, behaved in a manner unbecoming and detrimental to the nation and the public so we had to shoulder our responsibility to rescue the country, establish security and stability, and endeavor to build the Tunisia of the future on the basis of democracy, freedom, and justice. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Mr President, do you approve of absolute economic freedom or do you believe in some restrictions?

Ben Ali: We believe that there is no absolute economic freedom in any country in the world. There is regulated freedom subject to various laws and methods. Perhaps your question is about our current economic policy which aims at freeing the economy from restrictions and pressures to make it more flexible and effective. There is no doubt that this policy takes the interests of all economic sectors as well as all possible repercussions, especially social repercussions, into consideration.

We have gone a reasonable way in freeing some prices, trade, and investment. This has had a positive effect, particularly on exports and the balance of payments. We will continue on the same course gradually, our aim

being to encourage investment and reactivate the self-correcting methods for the national economy in order to achieve higher rates of development and create more employment in the interest of the country's progress and prosperity. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Mr President, I would like to move from Tunisian affairs to a wider subject. Could I hear your views on Tunisia's Arab policy in the next phase?

Ben Ali: The new regime, which has restored Tunisia's genuine Arab and Islamic identity and which believes in a common Arab destiny, has called and continues to call for more joint Arab action through gradual but firm steps toward the creation of integral regional groupings similar to the GCC and the Arab Maghreb, to pave the way for comprehensive Arab unity.

We have faith in the efficacy and ability of the existing Arab organizations, especially the Arab League and its various specialized departments, to undertake this great and historic task. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: In light of what you have said, do you support the retention of the Arab League headquarters in Tunis?

Ben Ali: You may well recall that the Arab League headquarters was moved to Tunis in accordance with a decision made by the Arab summit conference in Baghdad in 1979 because Tunisia had good normal relations with all Arab states without exception. After some hesitation by the [Tunisian] government at the time and on the insistence of many brothers, the Arab League was finally moved to Tunis.

It is now clear beyond any doubt, and on the testimony of neutral observers, that the Arab League, as based in Tunis, has made significant achievements in the field of joint Arab action and that has given it a dynamism unprecedented since its inception. No one can dispute the fact that the Arab League in Tunis now enjoys an independent ability to make decisions free of any influence or interference by the host state.

Tunisia, which is proud of hosting the Arab League, supports its retention in Tunis, not for narrow selfish reasons but in the service of higher Arab interests and in response to the wishes of all brothers, as expressed on many occasions.

AL-HAWADITH: What, in your view, is the way to settle the Palestinian question, and what is the state of Tunisian-PLO relations at present?

Ben Ali: The way to settle the Palestinian question is through an international conference that would be the instrument for the implementation of a plan, to be agreed by the conference itself, based on what we unanimously agreed upon at the Fes summit conference for the promotion of a settlement that would restore the Palestinian people's legitimate and inalienable rights to their land, to an independent state, and to a regime of their own choice under the historic leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative.

In saying that, we are not merely raising a slogan but acknowledging a fact confirmed by the PLO's stands, those of continuous struggle, the latest being its leadership of the ongoing heroic uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

As regards Tunisian-PLO relations, they are very good and unblemished. They are based on mutual trust and true fraternity and are getting stronger every day.

AL-HAWADITH: We have noticed that since 7 November there has been some dynamic movement toward Arab Maghreb unity, particulary since you personally moved to ensure the success of contacts in this connection. What steps were taken at the recent Arab Maghreb summit toward building the greater Arab Maghreb and was it agreed to hold a referendum on a Maghreb structure similar to the GCC?

Ben Ali: We consider the Maghreb summit conference held on 10 July in [Zir al-Siddah] in Algeria to be a historic event in itself because that was the first time the leaders of the five Maghreb states have met. We all agreed on the need to achieve Maghreb unity and we pinpointed what should be done to build the Maghrebian edifice. We formed a high-level committee with representatives from each state to meet in the countries of the region in rotation. We instructed the committee to consider formulas of cooperation and find structural ways of building an Arab Maghreb without borders, with freedom of movement for people and commodities of national origin. [passage omitted]

The committee met on 13 July in Algiers and it will meet next on 24 October in Rabat to pave the way for building the Arab Maghreb. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What will your forthcoming visits to France and the United States cover, and will you follow that with a visit to the Soviet Union?

Ben Ali: Tunis has historic deep-rooted links with France and it is on that basis that I am paying a visit to that friendly country at the invitation of President Francois Mitterrand.

My visit to the United States is in response to an official invitation I have received and my talks with U.S. officials will center on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest, topped of course by the Palestine question and all causes of the Arab nation.

It should be noted here that Tunisia's relations with the United States have always been characterized by friendship, appreciation, and frankness. As regards our relations with the Soviet Union, they are proceeding well and are being continuously strengthened in the common interest and

friendship between the two countries. Tunisia appreciates highly the Soviet Union's support of Arab causes, particularly the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

New Foreign Minister Escheikh Interviewed
PM2807160188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jul 88 p1

[Al-Hashimi al-Hamidi report: "New Tunisian Foreign Minister Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: We See a Greater Maghreb Without Boundaries"]

[Text] London, Paris, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—In a statement, the first since he was appointed Tunisian foreign minister, Abdelhamid Escheikh has announced that Tunisian-Libyan relations are not facing any obstacles and are proceeding as well as one could possibly wish.

In a telephone interview with AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT Escheikh said that the Arab Maghreb states are determined to establish a plan for a greater Arab Maghreb without boundaries. He pointed out that the technical committees formed by the Arab Maghreb leaders are now examining all aspects of the plan and shall submit their reports according to the schedule drawn up.

The new foreign minister expressed optimism that the endeavors being exerted in the region will lead to positive results for all the Arab Maghreb states.

Asked whether the Saharan problem will hamper the achievement of such results Abdelhamid Escheikh emphasized that all the parties concerned seek a fair solution, and for its part, Tunisia will exert efforts, if so required, to bring about a permanent and acceptable solution to the problem.

Asked by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT about the basis of his country's foreign policy in the new era, the Tunisian minister emphasized that Tunisia operates on the basis of its adherence to its Arab and Islamic identity, which is beyond doubt and argument. It is opening up to the outside world, but not at the expense of its Arab and Islamic identity.

In this context he emphasized that Tunisia's relations with the Arab states are good in general; they have improved a great deal with many of the Arab Gulf states, especially after the 7 November change.

Meanwhile, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned from reliable Tunisian sources that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali will request that some ministers, who are House of Representatives members, abandon their seats in parliament, and will probably request other deputies to do the same. This will provide about 15 to 25 vacant seats for by-elections, which President Ben Ali has promised parliament he would supervise himself to ensure impartiality.

In this way opposition parties members could sit in parliament for the first time in Tunisian contemporary history. Eyes are now focused on the Movement of Socialist Democrats, whose leaders believe that 30 of their candidates had won in the 1981 elections but were eliminated by the rigging of the results.

It has been noticed that in the recent Cabinet reshuffle the Health Ministry was assigned to Dr Saadeddine Zmerli, chairman of the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights, who is known for being close to the Movement of Socialist Democrats.

Habib Ammar Meets With Italian Counterpart
PM2607121888 Tunis LE RENOUVEAU in French 23 Jul 88 p 7

[Unattributed report: "Tunisia-Italy: Dynamic Cooperation: Habib Ammar Has Rome Talks with Members of Italian Government"]

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Habib Ammar, who has been on a working visit to Rome since Wednesday [20 July], had a meeting Thursday morning at the Interior Ministry in the Italian capital with Italian Interior Minister Antonio Gava.

The meeting was attended by, among others, Tunisian Ambassador to Rome Noureddine Mejdoub and director general of Italian police Vincenzo Parisi.

Following the meeting the Italian interior minister released the following communique:

"Interior Minister Gava has received Tunisian Interior Minister Habib Ammar.

"During the lengthy and cordial conversation matters concerning cooperation between the two countries were examined, with special reference to those concerning security.

"It was proposed that relations in this field be intensified in the mutual interest.

"Habib Ammar extended to Mr Gava an invitation to visit Tunisia. Minister Gava accepted the invitation, the date for which remains to be set.

"At the meeting there was also an examination of the issue of the missing catamaran which has prompted great interest recently in both Italy and Tunisia.

"In this connection close cooperation has been established through the activity conducted with the utmost discretion by Tunisian investigators, which permitted the conclusion of the operation Wednesday evening.

"Habib Ammar decided to convey this directly to his Italian counterpart and informed him that the catamaran abandoned at sea has been found and the three fugitives arrested.

"The Tunisian Government assured Minister Gava that it has set in motion the procedures for their extradition to Italy."

Continuing his activities in Rome Habib Ammar had a meeting with Italian Deputy Prime Minister Gianni de Michelis.

The conversation, which took place in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere, permitted an exchange of views on bilateral relations described as exemplary by both sides and on new prospects for strengthening and enriching cooperation in the Mediterranean region. The two interlocutors also cited the roles that their countries must strive to fulfil in their respective regions to intensify and develop relations between the Maghreb and the EC.

On the bilateral level, Messrs de Michelis and Ammar expressed satisfaction with the development of Tunisian-Italian cooperation and hailed their respective countries' willingness to encourage joint enterprises for joint production.

Mr de Michelis announced at the meeting that he will be pleased to visit Tunisia in November in connection with Italian week.

Dynamic and Fruitful Cooperation

In the afternoon Habib Ammar met with Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. Following this useful and cordial meeting Mr Ammar released the following statement to TUNIS-AFRIQUE-PRESSE:

"I have had the pleasure of meeting with Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti.

"The meeting provided me with a useful opportunity to reaffirm to Mr Andreotti the special importance that the new Tunisian regime attaches to strengthening ties with Italy.

"I also conveyed to Minister Andreotti satisfaction with the special friendly relations between our two countries. We also examined our exemplary bilateral relations and ways and means of strengthening, diversifying, and enriching them in a spirit of dynamic mutual cooperation and within the context of successful and efficient cooperation between the seaboard countries of the Mediterranean.

"Finally, there was a review of international issues of shared concern, which revealed agreement on the majority of the matters broached.

"During this fruitful meeting I was able to appreciate Italy's great determination to support Tunisia in its new task of development and modernization.

"Giulio Andreotti confirmed to me his intention to pay an early visit to Tunisia during which, together with his Tunisian opposite number, he will preside over the proceedings of the Tunisian-Italian Grand Committee. [no closing quote marks, as published] [passage omitted]

Briefs

Italian 'Terrorist' Arrested

The Tunisian Criminal Investigation Department has arrested the leader of a dangerous Italian terrorist organization wanted by Interpol. He will be handed over to Italian authorities today. Mr Hassen el Kouki, director of the Judicial Police, held a news conference this afternoon to provide details of the circumstances surrounding the arrest of the Italian terrorist. The operation comes within the framework of the distinguished relations between Tunisia and Italy and the cooperation between the two countries' security services. The man arrested, Claudio Cerick, is 34 years old and is the leader of one of the Italian gangs closely linked to the Red Brigades. According to the Italian warrant, he is accused of murder, kidnapping, abduction, illegal possession of firearms, and forgery. This Italian terrorist arrived from France and went to southern Tunisia, where he was arrested by the Tunisian security services on his first day. A delegation of Italian police has arrived in Tunisia to take the accused back to Italy. [Text] *[LD2907011388 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 MT 28 Jul 88]*

Kuwait

Paper Cited on U.S. 'Hostility' to Arabs

LD2907084988 Kuwait KUNA in English 0800 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 29 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti newspaper Friday lashed out at what it called "the absolute U.S. hostility to the Arabs" and noted that the American Administration was saving no efforts to ensure Israel of military supremacy over its Arab neighbors.

The paper, AL-RAY AL-'AMM, said in a front-page editorial the American Congress would readily act to block any arms sales to Arab countries, while the administration is always mindful of Israel's military demands.

The paper cited reports that Washington had frozen economic and military cooperation with Qatar because that Arab Gulf country "illegally" obtained U.S.-made Stinger missiles.

"This means one thing: absolute U.S. hostility to the Arabs," according to the paper which, meanwhile, indicated that the American Administration and Congress lavishly supply Israel with weaponry and even "the right to kill and annihilate the others and eliminate their existence."

The paper bitterly opined that the Congress would not hesitate to go to any length including "bypassing its legislative power... as to abuse Arabs and to prove its uncanny effectiveness in serving Israel and international Zionism."

Saudi Arabia

UK Weekly Interviews Ambassador to U.S.

PM2807130188 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 29 Jul 88 pp 29, 30

[Interview with Ambassador to the United States Prince Bandar ibn Sultan by Raghidah Dirgham in Atlanta; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Introductory passage omitted] AL-HAWADITH: Why are you here in Atlanta during the Democratic Party convention?

Prince Bandar: The U.S. elections are important to all the states of the world. Whoever becomes leader of the United States, with its sheer weight in the world, will influence both interests and the course of affairs in the world.

On the basis of the Saudi Kingdom's interest in acquainting itself with the next U.S. leadership, whether Democrat or Republican, we maintain contacts with officials in both parties. That is why I will be attending the Republican Party convention as well. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the present administration's policy on the Middle East came too late? Or is there still a chance to make it succeed before the end of the administration's term?

Prince Bandar: The interest of the U.S. President and his secretary of state in making efforts to serve peace is a positive sign. But the success or failure of such moves depends on numerous elements which are not linked to the stands of the Arab states alone, but to the stand of the other party and that of other international parties. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: The Iranian foreign minister said recently that talks are continuing with the GCC states in response to an initiative from Oman with the aim of making arrangements for the sake of Gulf security. Are these talks actually continuing? And what stage have they reached?

Prince Bandar: I heard the Iranian foreign minister's statement, but I have no information on this subject. If there are such talks, ask the GCC secretary general about them. As for me personally, I have no information to enable me to confirm or deny this.

AL-HAWADITH: What sort of Iran is emerging in the region?

Prince Bandar: That is an intelligent and important question. The tragedy that erupted 8 years ago has shuffled the cards considerably and made it difficult logically to classify the region's features. Undoubtedly one of the results of the implementation of Resolution 598 will be that everyone will reconsider his calculations.

In this case, the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, as it has always been, will be in the forefront in order to establish brotherly and stable relations, based on mutual respect, with all Arab and Islamic states. We have always sought peace, calm, and mutual respect. On this basis we shall follow events to build our policy and interact with the situation.

But we hope that reason will prevail and the national interests of the states will be the main factor in any move so we can serve our peoples in the region and secure for them a dignified and prosperous life, which cannot be achieved under war.

AL-HAWADITH: And what sort of Iraq is returning to the region, especially after its military and political victories?

Prince Bandar: I believe that fraternal Arab Iraq's strength represents the Arab nation's strength. And Iraq's weakness means the Arab nation's weakness. I believe that Iraq will embark on a major constructive role after the war, as it has always been accustomed to. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: Why are the GCC states turning to armament at this particular time, when there is an inclination to end the Iraq-Iran war and the region is entering a phase of stability?

Prince Bandar: Armament is built on a certain basis, namely the state's need to establish a force capable of protecting its national security, regardless of particular events. Armament in the Gulf does not begin and end with the announcement Tehran made a week ago.

The program of armament, training, and strengthening of the defensive systems of these states began years ago. [passage omitted] But the Gulf states are arming themselves on the basis of their legitimate right to prepare their defensive systems so they can defend themselves and their people.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there any coordination among the GCC states on arms diversification?

Prince Bandar: There is coordination in all fields via the GCC General Secretariat. Regular meetings are held between officials from defense ministries and chiefs of staff. Undoubtedly there is coordination aimed at serving the entire community as well as the Arab and Islamic nations.

AL-HAWADITH: The prevailing impression is that Saudi Arabia's decision to turn to Britain to conclude the Tornado aircraft deal was not the result of a U.S.-Saudi dispute, and that this has not affected the good relationship between the two countries.

Prince Bandar: Arms diversification is a wise policy in itself. The Saudi Kingdom's needs are assessed by specialists. The political leadership assesses such requirements, and then it makes a decision after the sources are studied. We then choose the better source. If there are difficulties, we move to another source meeting the same requirements.

Saudi-U.S. relations are old, strong, and based on mutual respect in the interest of both peoples. And a particular deal cannot control Saudi Arabia's policy. Saudi-U.S. relations are great and vast; they have their positive and negative aspects, but we always work to curb the negative aspects and strengthen the positive ones.

AL-HAWADITH: The Americans and several other states, including the Soviet Union and China, have made a move to cooperate in preventing the spread of advanced weapons, such as intercontinental ballistic missiles and so on. Such a move was made after the Saudi Kingdom's acquisition of Chinese missiles. Is this move aimed at Saudi Arabia?

Prince Bandar: We hope this is not the objective. According to my understanding, and according to what I have heard from U.S. officials, the move is aimed at preventing the spread of weapons in general, including intercontinental ballistic missiles and so on. The Saudi Arabian Kingdom does not oppose anything that is general and applied to everyone with a view to easing the severity of tension in the world. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: At whom is this aimed when the U.S. Administration, at the height of U.S. maneuvers to ban the spread of intercontinental ballistic missiles, established an official understanding and coordination with Israel with the aim of cooperating in this field?

Prince Bandar: Israel's objectives are one thing and our wishes and the Arab nation's resolutions are another. And I do not know why you find it strange that Israel should wish to limit the Arab nation's capability to defend itself. It is important not to pay attention to this.

The Saudi Kingdom's policy is clear and doubters have seen for themselves a number of things that have emerged over the past months and undoubtedly have, or so I hope, prompted them to reconsider their assessment of Saudi policy. We also hope that these things have proved that Saudi policy is based on national decision-making, love, and peace. Weakness cannot achieve peace; strength does.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the true story of the Chinese missiles? Was it really a surprise to the Americans? Or did the Americans have prior knowledge of it? I am raising this question in the knowledge that you personally played a part in this. So what is the truth?

Prince Bandar: The Chinese missiles issue was covered by statements from the custodian of the two holy mosques [King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz] personally as well as the Saudi Council of Ministers, and chiefly the appropriate officials, that is, the Saudi Defense Ministry. I believe that you will agree with me that discussing an issue such as this is not in the interest of the Kingdom's security. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: My question is based on the fact that the Americans were not surprised, for instance, by the Saudi-British Tornado aircraft deal. Were the Americans shocked and surprised by the Saudi-Chinese deal?

Prince Bandar: Undoubtedly there is a difference between the staunch U.S.-British relations and U.S.-Chinese relations. And this in itself can be an answer to your question.

AL-HAWADITH: You turned to China in your endeavor to diversify arms sources. Are you considering Soviet arms as well?

Prince Bandar: This is a difficult question for a diplomat to answer, not because I do not want to, but because my area of specialization is implementing the specified foreign policy. As for determining the types and sources of weapons, it is not for me decide. When a decision is made I will be able to help you in this regard. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: What about Saudi-Soviet relations. There are visits and contacts. But is there any possibility of embassies being opened or diplomatic missions being exchanged?

Prince Bandar: There are diplomatic relations without the existence of representation between the two states. So far I personally have no information about any intention to do what you mention.

AL-HAWADITH: Talking of diplomatic relations, will Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 open the door to the resumption of Saudi-Iranian relations?

Prince Bandar: There are causes of and justifications for the severing of relations between the Kingdom and Iran. When the causes are eliminated, I do not believe there will be anything to prevent the resumption of these relations. The Saudi Kingdom respects the Muslim Iranian people and wishes them well. But the Kingdom has been afflicted by the attitudes of their leadership. Our action was taken on this basis.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 and its willingness to implement it will lead to a reduction in the size of the fleets now present in the Gulf and secure an international cover for these fleets?

Prince Bandar: Some people tend to confuse tension in the Gulf and the presence of the fleets. The fleets did not cause tension. There was tension, and freedom of international navigation, which is an international responsibility, was being hampered. That prompted the presence of the fleets to protect interests and maintain the principle of freedom of navigation. When the cause is eliminated, there will be no justification. Such a decision is up to each individual state on the basis of its own interests.

AL-HAWADITH: Does the Kingdom wish to see these fleets reduced?

Prince Bandar: We hope that the tension will ease and the disputes that justified the presence of these fleets will be eliminated. This concerns both us and the states of the region. Even the states that have dispatched their fleets do not wish to maintain the presence of the fleets on such a scale without justification. If the justifications are eliminated, I believe matters will return to normal.

AL-HAWADITH: Do you believe that the Iranian opening will influence Iraqi-Syrian relations, in the form of a rapprochement between Baghdad and Damascus?

Prince Bandar: The Saudi Kingdom certainly calls for Arab solidarity. King Fahd in particular considers this issue one of his main priorities in foreign policy. We support, encourage, and seek any rapprochement among the Arab brothers. Thus, any easing of tension in our region must have a positive effect. We hope that this will take place, but in actual fact I have no specific information in this regard.

AL-HAWADITH: You personally have played a major role regarding Lebanon. Are you still playing a particular role behind the scenes?

Prince Bandar: I would like to say that my role was to implement a policy of extreme importance to both the custodian of the two holy mosques, his majesty the king, and the crown prince. Lebanon concerns us. We have love, respect, and appreciation toward all the Lebanese brothers.

The Saudi Kingdom insists that Lebanon be an independent state. It also stresses Lebanese territorial integrity and peaceful cohesion among all Lebanese groups. Lebanon is a noble Arab country and we wish it well. This has been a firm Saudi policy since the era of King 'Abd al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

AL-HAWADITH: A final question about the uprising: How much Arab diplomatic support for the uprising is maintained in Washington? Are there any means of ensuring its continuity? And do you believe that the uprising will lead to the parties agreeing to an international conference, or are diplomatic maneuvers separate from the uprising?

Prince Bandar: I believe that the uprising is a historic movement in the Palestinian cause. Children, young men, and young women have taught us a brilliant lesson in sacrifice, honorable resistance, and determination to restore their legitimate rights. One can only admire and appreciate what is happening in the uprising. I believe that no power in the world can destroy the aspirations of the people of the uprising. [passage omitted]

Support for the uprising is continuing in all forms, and we are committed to the Palestinians in general and the uprising in particular; this is on a patriotic basis. I would like to say that the uprising is a historic movement and nothing can stop the course of history. [passage omitted]

Bahraini Prime Minister Undergoes Surgery

LD2907130888 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 29 Jul (SPA)—Statement from the Royal Court. We have received the following from the Amiri Court in Bahrain:

Following medical tests performed on His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, the prime minister, at the King Faysal Hospital in Riyadh, it was decided to perform a surgical operation on his highness.

The operation was performed at the Armed Forces Hospital in Riyadh, under the supervision of a medical team headed by Doctor Muhammad al-Faqih. The operation, thank God, was crowned with complete success. [passage omitted]

Yemen Arab Republic

'Arafat Makes Statement, Departs 28 Jul

JN2807175088 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Brother struggler Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, left Sanaa this afternoon following a visit of several days to our country, during which he met with Brother President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih.

In a statement to SABA', Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] explained that he acquainted the brother president with the events occurring in Palestinian and Arab affairs as well as the latest developments in our Palestinian Arab people's struggle against the Zionist forces in the occupied Arab territories. He said that he had discussed with the brother president means of supporting the popular revolution.

He also discussed Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598. After its implementation rifles will be directed against the Zionist enemy. He noted that he congratulated the brother president with the success of the democratic process, which was witnessed by our country when the brother president was reelected.

Concluding his statement, Abu 'Ammar thanked our country for its constant stands on the Palestine question as well as its unlimited support for the Palestinian Arab people.

He was seen off by a number of brother officials as well as Brother Jamal 'Arafat, PLO representative in Sanaa, and a number of Palestinian revolution officials.

President Receives Message From Al-Qadhdhafi

JN2807141388 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has received a message from Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan 1 September Revolution.

The message deals with the growing relations between the two countries as well as Arab issues of mutual interest, headed by the Arabs' major issue, the Palestine question. The message also deals with the possibility of unifying efforts to support the Palestinian people in their just struggle against the Zionist enemy and those supporting it.

'Aziz Meets U.S, USSR, Other UN Representatives

JN2907112888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1108 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] New York, 29 Jul (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here yesterday with the SFRY, UK, U.S., PRC, USSR, and Algerian United Nations representatives. These meetings dealt with current international efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 to end the Iraq-Iran war.

Ambassadors of Security Council States Briefed

JN2807170488 Baghdad INA in English 1630 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 28, INA—Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, Iraqi state minister for foreign affairs today received here ambassadors of the five permanent member-states of the Security Council. During the meeting, Dr Hammadi stressed to the ambassadors Iraq's stand calling for concluding an enduring and comprehensive peace accord with Iran that is guaranteed by the Security Council members so that Iran would not change its stand in the future as it always did previously and return once more to the state of war and instability in the region.

Dr Hammadi stressed that Iraq supports an early and urgent cease-fire and termination of the war within the framework of a permanent and comprehensive peace accord between the two countries. Dr Hammadi stressed that Iraq does not intend to stay in Iranian territory and has no ambitions in Iranian territory. The Iraqi state minister for foreign affairs confirmed that mere Iranian announcements of accepting Resolution 598 does not mean that Iran wants permanent and comprehensive peace. "Our request to hold direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran is aimed at speeding up the process of reaching the aspired peace and direct negotiations are the swift and guaranteed method of attaining this objective" Dr Hammadi said.

Iran Said 'Disrupting' Peace Efforts

JN2807194788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1913 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] New York, 28 Jul (INA)—The permanent Iraqi mission in New York issued the following press statement today:

Since they arrived in New York, the Iranians have been disrupting current diplomatic efforts to achieve peace between Iraq and Iran by showering the United States and news media with claims that Iraq is fighting inside Iran. The Iraqi mission would like to stress the following:

1. The Iraqi forces' recent military operations are to liberate occupied Iraqi territory.

2. Iraqi forces entered Iranian territory due to military operations requirements and now Iraqi forces have begun to withdraw. Iraq has no ambitions in Iran.

3. Iraq has a sincere desire for true and comprehensive peace through implementation of UN Security Council Resolution No 598. Considering Iran's duplicity and bad intentions, such peace can only be achieved through direct negotiations, under the auspices of the UN secretary general and through which the sincere stand of the Iranians will be tested.

4. Under current circumstances, it is necessary to draw attention to an AFP report from Nicosia citing Rafsanjani as saying that continuation of the war with Iraq will allow Iran to enjoy a position of strength during the negotiations. The report also quotes Rafsanjani as saying that Tehran's acceptance of Resolution No 598 is a political and ideological victory that will, fortunately, be followed by a military victory. Therefore, the true goals of the Iranian campaign must be made clear because Iran seeks a hasty truce without promising that it will honestly and sincerely abide by the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution within the framework of a lasting and comprehensive peace plan.

Paper Calls Iran's 598 Stand 'Tactical Maneuver'

JN2907072588 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0605 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Iranian rulers once again seek to depict themselves as a harmless lamb and the party that has been unjustly treated. They resume their ridiculous tune, claiming to the Iranian people and the world at large that Iraq covets Iranian territory. In an article here today, the paper says that by repeating this tune, Iranian rulers seek to disguise the ugly image with which they have faced the international community—the image of an aggressive and bloodthirsty regime—and appear instead as a regime which advocates peace, security, and stability.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that these rulers have forgotten that until recently they have been occupying beloved parts of our territory, and have been threatening us daily with the occupation of Basra and Baghdad. They also forgot that they have struck at Iraqi cities and their residential areas with heavy artillery and missiles and have carried out all types of terrorist crimes.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: While the Iranian rulers may have forgotten all this, the Iranian people and the international community have not. Everybody also knows that we have no designs on Iranian territory. We have repeatedly affirmed this and have backed up our statements with deeds while the not too distant past has confirmed that the Iran of charlatan Khomeyni is the one which covets Iraq and other countries.

The paper concludes: Thus, the Iranian rulers are the ones who should clear their suspect record and prove that they have changed their policies. They must also prove that they really want to implement Resolution 598 in accordance with its operative provisions, establish a comprehensive and lasting peace with Iraq, and play a positive role in enhancing regional security and stability. The paper says that the Iranian rulers' lies and clamor are only new proof of their ill intentions. The fabrication of imaginary battles, the closure of universities, the call

for volunteers, and the attribution of the operations by the Iranian National Liberation Army to the Iraqi forces demonstrate that their forced acceptance of Resolution 598 is a tactical maneuver to bring about a temporary truce which they will exploit to catch their breath and reorganize their remnants to resume their policy of aggression and expansion.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,277

JN2807164188 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,277 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 28 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The results of our units' combat activities last night and today were as follows:

1. The planes of our daring Air Force flew 173 combat missions today and inflicted heavy losses in scoundrels, weapons, and equipment of the enemies of our country, the Khomeyniites. They also destroyed two helicopters in the east of the Iranian city of Shahabad [Eslamabad], and dealt a successful blow to installations at the heliport in Kermanshah [Bakhtaran]. After carrying out all their missions, our planes returned safely to base. Praise be to God.

2. The lofty pilots of our helicopter gunships flew 66 combat missions today, through which they inflicted further losses on enemy personnel, weapons, and vehicles. They then returned safely to base in God's care.

3. Twenty enemy personnel were killed in the I Army corps northern sector and a single-barreled machinegun was destroyed and five ammunition dumps were blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. Four scoundrels were killed, two others were captured, and two vehicles were seized in the V Army Corps northern sector, and an ammunition dump was blown up and a gun emplacement and machinegun were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

5. A number of Iranian military men sought refuge with our forward units. They were evacuated safely to rear lines.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 28 July 1988

11 Divisions 'Destroyed'

JN2807175388 Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 28, INA—The Iranian opposition organization of Mojahedin-e Khalq said that forces of the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] killed and wounded 40 thousand Iranian troops following three days of pitched battles that bagan last Monday in an advance towards the town of Kermanshah [Bakhtaran].

Broadcasting the news monitored here today, Radio Mojahed quoted the INLA Command as saying that columns of ambulances were seen evacuating wounded of Khomeyni Guards to hospitals in various Iranian towns.

The radio added that the INLA forces destroyed 11 Iranian regime divisions pushed to the region of Kermanshah as reinforcements and that fighting is still going on around the outskirts of the towns of Eslamabad and Karand and the Eslamabad-Kermanshah road.

Radio Mojahed said that the Iranian regime announces false reports on the progress of the battles in an attempt to cover up its immense losses and the destruction of a large number of its guards divisions. It pointed out that Iranian regime jets yesterday and today intensively bombed the residential districts of the towns of Eslamabad and Karand which were liberated by the INLA forces. It said that several civilians were killed in the bombing.

INLA Withdraws From 2 Cities

JN2907101088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—The Iranian opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq organization has announced that its forces have withdrawn from Eslamabad and Kerend after controlling them for 72 hours. Radio Mojahed, mouthpiece of the Mojahedin-e Khalq organization, said today that the Iranian National Liberation Army [INLA] forces during the operation destroyed 11 divisions and several brigades of Khomeyni guards, downed 2 fighter aircraft and 2 helicopters, killed or wounded over 40,000 Khomeyni guards, and destroyed hundreds of tanks and armored vehicles. The statement explained that the INLA forces began their gradual withdrawal last night—72 hours after imposing complete control on Eslamabad and Kerend—on the roads leading to these two cities, and on their heights up to a distance of 150 km within Iranian territory. The statement stressed that the INLA forces withdrawal has taken place to reorganize these forces and topple the Khomeyni regime.

'Arafat Arrives To Chair PLO Central Council

JN2807191688 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1858 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 28 Jul (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived here today on a visit of several days to Iraq. During the visit, 'Arafat will chair the PLO Central Council's meetings due to begin the day after tomorrow, Saturday, to discuss developments in the valiant popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and all developments bearing on it. He was received by the director and members of the Arab Liberation movements bureau at the RCC and the director of the PLO office in Baghdad.

Ben-Aharon Cited on U.S. Envoy Murphy's Remarks
TA2807124988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by moderator Eytan Almog and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live]

[Text] [Almog] The U.S. diplomat Richard Murphy confirmed that he intends to meet with Palestinians during his upcoming visit to the region although within certain restrictions. Mr Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, our guest this afternoon, are we witnessing an erosion in the traditional U.S. stand, which opposes contacts with the PLO?

[Ben-Aharon] No, the very fact of the meeting is not an erosion because such things have taken place in the past. As can be recalled, last time Secretary Shultz wanted to hold a meeting with a larger and more representative Palestinian delegation, but they did not show up and boycotted him. A meeting itself is therefore not the problem.

Our problem is over the contents, definition, and identity of the interlocutors on the Arab side. If it is a member of the PLO—somebody who admits to being a member of the PLO, someone who is a member of the organization and has a certain status in the organization—then, of course, it is a deviation from the 1975 agreement between us and the United States in which the United States committed itself not to negotiate with the PLO unless it accepts Security Council Resolution 242, recognizes Israel's right to exist, and gives up terrorism.

[Almog] It is quite clear that Richard Murphy will search for people who will be able to come and say: We are the representatives of the Palestinian people through the organization that represents them, the PLO.

[Ben-Aharon] Who can come and say that?

[Almog] Murphy himself, to justify the talks he might have.

[Ben-Aharon] I think that if he becomes involved in such a situation, he will not hold the meeting so that he will not embarass the U.S. Administration and not appear as somebody who contravened a very, very important agreement between us and the United States.

[Almog] A few minutes ago we broadcast remarks by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, who said during a tour of Rishon Leziyyon today that there have already been statements like those made by Murphy and meetings we did recognize.

[Ben-Aharon] I think we have been quite firm. When Secretary of State Shultz met with those two professors who are known as members of the PNC, we did not like it and protested to the U.S. Administration. We were told that they are U.S. citizens; that was the justification. Nevertheless, we were upset. It is not a matter of looking at the small print in the agreement. The problem is that we know that the PLO aspires to talk to the United States at almost any price. That is the obstacle....

[Almog, interrupting] Which would legitimize the PLO.

[Ben-Aharon] No, it would not. The PLO knows, however, that the minute the United States gives it legitimacy the way will be paved sooner or later for contacts with Israel and then it will be able to come with demands....

[Almog, interrupting] And we are not interested in these contacts?

[Ben-Aharon] We are not interested in contacts with the PLO. Just permit me to say on that matter that there has been all sorts of talk about a certain moderation that has allegedly taken place recently inside the PLO. We should have a good memory. The Arabs have a good memory, and they are fairly consistent in their approach.

The PLO was set up in 1964 when we did not have Judaea and Samaria, and their aims have remained the same. They themselves keep saying this in the Arab context, and from time to time they carry out a trick like the Bassam Abu Sharif document, which was meant to achieve the same aim we recalled earlier: to pave the way to the United States.

[Ben-'Ami] Mr Ben-Aharon, should this statement not be seen as the reaction of the U.S. Administration or of the State Department to what is happening in the territories? Through such a meeting, the Palestinians and the PLO could indirectly feel reinvigorated about what is happening in the territories.

[Ben-Aharon] The secretary of state was here after December, when the incidents were at their height, and he sought to hold a meeting with Palestinians. Even at that time, this U.S. wish could have been interpreted as somewhat contributing toward recognition of the PLO's Palestinians. Nothing came out of it, however, because the Palestinians did not show up, although Shultz personally appealed to them and told them that the United States was trying to promote a settlement which would take the legitimate interests of the Palestinians into account.

They did not show up because they wanted the meeting to be held on their terms; namely, that the meeting should be held with people who are publicly known as PLO men. If such a meeting were to take place, I think this would represent a violation of the agreement reached in 1975.

[Ben-'Ami] Incidentally, if Palestinians were to come to such a meeting, they would most probably seek the PLO's approval beforehand because their lives could be jeopardized. I would like to ask you another question: The Americans know this administration does not have much time left, and they are trying to carry out what they

call the maintenance [last word in English] of the peace process so it does not deteriorate. What is our reaction to the fact that this maintenance is being conducted with the help of the Palestinians?

[Ben-Aharon] I would not say that they are doing that with the help of the Palestinians. Admittedly, the Americans want to keep this stew on the back burner so as to preserve a continuity for the next administration and not be seen as having given up on the political process conducive to a settlement. There is nothing wrong about that, if they do not violate the political criteria and agreements prevailing in the Middle East, particularly in everything pertaining to the PLO and its status.

[Ben-'Ami] I would like to take the opportunity of Mr Ben-Aharon being the guest of our midday newsreel to ask him another question. What about the departure of a delegation of ministerial directors general headed by you to Cairo for talks on Tabah? When and under what conditions will the delegation depart?

[Ben-Aharon] There is an understanding in principle between us and Egypt that such talks will definitely be held. We still have to decide on the makeup of the delegation, the dates of the meeting, and the mandate to be given to the delegation. All this will be decided within the next few days by the prime minister and other ministers to be chosen by him.

[Almog] Mr Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, I thank you very much.

Peres Cited on Moves by USSR, Jordan, U.S.
TA2907064788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Excerpt] [Friedman] Our first guest this morning is Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister. Good morning, sir.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Friedman] The first Israeli delegation in the 20 years since our relations with the Soviet Union were severed landed in Moscow last night. We perceive a wide gap between our expectation that this may be the first step toward the resumption of full relations and the cool conduct of the Soviets, who attach little importance to the delegation's arrival and certainly do not tie it in with resuming relations. Have we not been carried away by our exuberance?

[Peres] First of all, we need thought rather than exuberance. We must certainly differentiate between their deeds, which are constantly improving, and the way these deeds are described, which is quite cool. The reason is that the Soviet Union is addressing two different audiences: Israel, toward whom it is acting in a certain way, and the Arab states, whose reaction it fears. This explains the hot-cold concoction we have been fed. The central question, however, is not the extent of our exuberance, but rather the problem of the two different schools of thought in Israel.

Is the entire world really against us? Or is it possible to obtain the support of most of the world through a peace process? Take a quick glance at the history of our relations with the Soviet Union, for example. In 1948 both the United States and the Soviet Union supported the establishment of the State of Israel, and the Soviet Union helped realize this goal. During the following 30 or 35 years, the Soviet Union supplied the Arabs with arms, causing several wars. At present, we are again trying to win the support of both superpowers for our concept of peace, for the peace-seeking State of Israel. Our accomplishments in this sphere are quite impressive.

The very fact that the Soviet Union has consented to an international conference without coercive authority is an achievement, because until now the Soviet Union always tried to impose a solution on us. Consider the fact that all the prisoners of Zion have been released, that 2,000 exit visas were granted this month, a record month for recent years, and that a Soviet delegation is staying here and an Israeli one—even a low-level one—has arrived in Moscow. Progress is indeed slow, but we must constantly ask ourselves what it is that we want. They are not out to amuse us, are they?

[Dan] Do you believe this will actually lead to a resumption of relations?

[Peres] That largely depends on us. Do you think the world is out to provide the State of Israel with an entertainment program?

[Friedman] What do you mean by saying that it depends on us? What can we do?

[Peres] It depends whether we manage to convince the world that as far as peace is concerned, we are truly the leading factor in the region.

[Friedman] Without progress in the peace process there will be no relations?

[Peres] I do not think in terms of with or without; there are degrees and stages in everything. When we launched the rapprochement process with the Soviet Union, some people here, those eternally proud people, said: Do not take this step without first obtaining a Soviet commitment to take a counterstep. I did not accept this approach. I believe Israel's situation can be improved through patience and perseverance.

[Friedman] You are speaking about the peace process, the international conference, while only yesterday Jordan announced that it is canceling the development plan for the territories, and there is talk of its intention to establish a parliament without representatives from the territories. Even if in this Husayn has not totally cut himself off from Judaea and Samaria, is this not a loud and clear declaration that he is not interested in these areas at present?

[Peres] Were we ready when he was interested? How can we have any complaints? Look, in the summer of 1987, 1 year ago, we reached—no, I must be careful how I put this—the so-called London document came into being.

[Friedman] Your meeting with Husayn in London is now common knowledge.

[Peres] Others can talk about it; I cannot. It was possible to launch negotiations on the basis of that document. Well, did we? Someone here prevented it. I would like to add this: It is essential to see the three basic components of the problem, for we cannot constantly look at the cosmetics without looking at the face itself. There are three central elements to our relations with Jordan:

1. All residents of Judaea and Samaria have Jordanian passports. When these are taken away, then there will be no Jordanian option. 2. The open bridges on the Jordan River are the central economic factor. If the situation changes, they will be closed. 3. Israel's longest and most sensitive border is the one with Jordan. Jordan, too, must decide what kind of border it wants: a hot one or a quiet one.

[Dan] The question is whether King Husayn's recent steps do not undermine your concept of him as a partner.

[Peres] Did anything happen before these steps? First and foremost, we must make up our own minds. I am not sitting here in an observation post with binoculars in my hand, looking at what has been undermined and what has not. First of all, we must decide whether we want to start negotiations. If we do not, what does it matter if Husayn's position here is weaker or stronger?

[Friedman] Have you received the impression that the United States may be looking to replace us with a new partner, such as the PLO? What about the upcoming Murphy talks?

[Peres] In its relations with the PLO, the United States has committed itself to certain parameters, to which I believe it will adhere. The administration made the decision and Congress approved it. The United States has not totally rejected the possibility, but it has posed three conditions, and if the PLO persists in its obstinacy, it will have to remain out in the cold. If the PLO accepts these three conditions, the United States may certainly welcome it.

[Friedman] Do you view the Abu Sharif document as a step in the right direction or as a political anecdote, as 'Arafat's second-in-command Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf] called it last night?

[Peres] It is the overall picture that is not serious. One of the PLO leaders makes a declaration, and before the ink on his signature is dry, other leaders rush to deny it. This is one of the problems with the PLO: Its leaders are apt to utter contradictory statements three times a day.

[Dan] Mr Peres, a few questions regarding the election campaign, if I may. Voices have recently been heard in your party saying that Yitzhaq Rabin could be a more attractive party leader.

[Peres] Where were these voices heard? It is the lone voice of one reporter, who I think has unearthed some old story. I have heard nothing about it.

[Dan] Some very harsh criticism has been voiced on the part of....

[Peres, interrupting] On the part of whom?

[Dan] I can quote some people who said that they have stopped believing you, that...

[Peres, interrupting] Where? Who is saying that?

[Dan] I am quoting.

[Peres] Whom?

[Dan] A certain newspaper.

[Peres] Which newspaper? Who stopped believing me? Listen, this is the story of a disgruntled man who is not even prepared to divulge his name, but who goes around spreading rumors. Who wants to hear it? Let someone arise, identify himself, and say in public....

[Dan, interrupting] Do you not sense criticism toward you in your own party? An undermining of your status, perhaps?

[Peres] No, madam. I was unanimously elected by my party, and all those people had an opportunity to vote either for me or against me, as they please.

[Friedman] But your adversary does identify himself by name. This week, for instance, you were accused of having given a mendacious report on a certain matter during your term as prime minister. You were also accused of being manipulated or acting in the interests of Egypt in the Tabah affair. Do you believe someone is out to get Peres?

[Peres] First of all, they have always acted this way. The Likud is adept at mudslinging; I do not deny that. As for the first issue--their accusations with respect to the

Pollard affair—this is scandalous. This is a highly sensitive issue and my freedom of speech on the matter is restricted. Their actions were, in fact, an attempt to frame me. I am amazed at their second charge because those who accused me are as guilty as I.

[Dan] Mr Peres, in view of the recent developments between the Likud and the Alignment and in view of the experience of the past 4 years, do you still believe in the possibility of a unity government after the elections?

[Peres] We must first clarify the question. Is your question regarding the kind of cabinet it will be or what policies it will pursue? If it is a cabinet that does nothing, then there is no point in establishing it. I think that if we do not establish a government that is determined to lead us to peace, the State of Israel will find itself in a very grave situation. If, for example, the Likud wishes to establish more settlements, we will not be partners to the government.

That is the opposite of what this country needs. We must make a clear and unequivocal decision on whether we want a Jewish or a Jewish-Arab state. These are unavoidable decisions, and the constant attempts to divert attention to the side issues will do no good. These are the central issues which will decide everything, and they have to be agreed on. [passage omitted]

Jordan Cancels Territories Development Plan

Peres' Office Comments

TA2907091988 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 29 Jul 88 pp 1, 2

[Report by Arab affairs and political correspondent Dan Avidan]

[Excerpts] The Jordanian Government decided yesterday to cancel its 5-year development plan for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' office termed King Husayn's decision "a tactical move." [Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 29 July in a page one report by Elaine Fletcher, Joel Greenberg, and Yehuda Litani adds that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres described the announcement as a move designed to counter PLO criticism that Jordan had tried to undermine the PLO status on the West Bank."]

Sources in the office said that such a step has no real effect on the future of the territories, because the 5-year plan—announced 2 years ago—has not yet been implemented and it is doubtful whether Jordan truly intended to raise the necessary funds, which amount to over $1 billion, for the development of the West Bank.

The sources further noted that contrary to earlier assessments, Husayn did not announce cutting off ties with the West Bank and the Palestinian problem. The Prime Minister's Office and Likud ministers, however, said that the Jordanian announcement means that contrary to Peres and the Alignment's claims, the "Jordanian option" no longer exists. According to them, the only basis for negotiations are the Camp David Accords and the autonomy plan.

West Bank Figure Cited

JN2807161788 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Interview with Sa'id Kan'an from Nabulus by Ibrahim Shahid; place not given—live or recorded; within the "With the Events" program]

[Text] [Shahid] Mr Sa'id Kan'an from Nabulus, good evening.

[Kan'an] Good evening.

[Shahid] You have certainly heard the Jordanian statement today regarding the cancellation of the Jordanian West Bank development plan. We would like to hear your comment on this statement?

[Kan'an] The cancellation of the development plan is not unexpected because the plan faced a Palestinian rejection from inside [the occupied territories] or Palestinian suspicions from outside. It was believed that there were political objectives behind the implementation of this plan. Therefore, this rejection has contributed to discontinuing the financing of the plan. Practically, this plan has failed because it was not financed.

[Shahid] Sa'id, some funds used to arrive on the West Bank in the past through the Palestinian-Jordanian joint committee, and recently through this plan, which is now canceled. How do you view the situation following the cancellation of this plan and the finances to the joint fund?

[Kan'an] There is a difference between financing any development plan by Jordan alone or by the joint committee. At the time of the joint committee, there were enough funds to support the development plans that were drawn up by this joint committee. However, regarding the Jordanian development plan, there were no true processes to finance the economic and social 5-year plan on the West Bank, which was approved, of course. As for the future, as I said, the cancellation of the development plan is not unexpected. By doing so, Jordan believes that many Palestinians inside and outside will be happy with putting matters on the right course regarding the fact that the Palestinians will assume their own responsibilities for themselves.

[Shahid] Sa'id Kan'an, I would like to ask how you view the situation on the West Bank after the cancellation of the development plan, especially since it has been reported that Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Jordan and will be faced by this decision?

[Kan'an] I believe that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] will be pleased with this decision, because the PLO leadership did not support the development plan. We knew this. On the contrary, I believe that it was a decision to put matters on the right course, particularly after the Algiers summit and in light of the recent uprising.

[Shahid] The economic situation on the West Bank is very bad, as you know. Do you not believe that this will worsen the situation?

[Kan'an] The economic situation has actually reached a very bad point that has been felt by everyone. I do not believe that the cancellation of the development plan will further worsen the economic situation on the West Bank, because it is already very bad on one hand, and on the other hand, as I told you, there were not enough funds to support the plan.

I do not believe that the cancellation of the development plan will negatively affect the economic situation because it was basically bad. This is because the funds allocated to the development plan were practically very scarce and the funds that arrived were also very scarce.

[Shahid] Thank you Sa'id Kan'an.

[Kan'an] You are welcome.

Former Gaza Mayor 'Surprised'

JN2807160088 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 28 Jul 88

Interview with former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa by Ibrahim Shahid; place not given—live or recorded; carried within "With the Events" program]

[Text] [Shahid] Haj Rashad al-Shawwa, good evening.

[Al-Shawwa] Good evening. Welcome.

[Shahid] You have heard today about the Jordanian declaration abolishing the Jordanian development plan in the West Bank and dissolving all the committees linked to the plan. What is your initial comment on the statement?

[Al-Shawwa] I was surprised by it. However, I do not believe it will have great consequences because Jordan cannot abandon its support and backing for the occupied territories. His majesty, who is known for his sound national beliefs and inclinations, cannot abandon support for his kinfolk and brothers in the occupied territory.

I am hopeful that the abolition of the development in the occupied territories will be reconsidered because we greatly need all the support and backing we receive from outside. I call for and urge continued support for the kinfolk in the occupied territories and help for them so that they will be able, by coordinating with all parties, to eliminate the existing Israeli occupation.

[Shahid] Haj Rashad, how do you view the situation if the decision is implemented and development plans or other plans for aid for the West Bank are abolished?

[Al-Shawwa] I believe the moral effect of such action is greater than the material effect. Morally, I do not want the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank to feel that Jordan has abandoned them because Jordan is a basic element in any future solution to save them from their situation.

[Shahid] Haj Rashad, bearing in mind that the development plan came in the wake of the suspension of the Palestinian-Jordanian joint commiittee and the fund there, and now that the plan is also being abolished, do you expect aid from the Arab states to be given jointly in the absence of direct aid from Jordan?

[Al-Shawwa] I believe that one of the factors that will affect the aid situation is that if the Arab governments, which used to support the joint committee, feel that the estrangement is serious, they will think 10 times before extending any aid.

[Shahid] Thank you, Haj Rashad al-Shawwa.

[Al-Shawwa] Thank you.

Intended To Assure PLO

TA2807172888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] The former mayor of Gaza city, Rashad al-Shawwa, says he does not believe Jordan will diminish the amount of aid to the territories. In an interview with reporter Steve Rodan, Al-Shawwa says King Husayn does not intend to hurt Palestinians in his expected new policy toward the territories.

[Begin recording] [Al-Shawwa] I think the king is an Arab, a real believer in Arab brotherhood, and I don't think that he would diminish any aid to the occupied territories.

A few days ago, there was Jordanian money that was paid in assistance to teachers and other government employees, amounting to about $1 million.

[Rodan] Then, on what do you think these reports are based? Is there some sort of ulterior motive to these leaks?

[Al-Shawwa] It probably aims at assuring the PLO that he is not competing with them, that he is only trying to aid the people in the occupied territories, but with no intention to compete for authority with the PLO.

[Rodan] And do you think this effort will work? After all, we hear rumors that Yasir 'Arafat may be coming to Amman? Do you think that the message by Jordan will be received?

[Al-Shawwa] Well, I think it should be received, but I firmly believe that no solution whatsoever can be attained without full cooperation with Jordan.

[Rodan] Mr al-Shawwa, do you think that the 7 months of the intifada [uprising], perhaps, has led Jordan to change its policy toward the territories, because the feeling here is that the influence and the support of Jordan has waned?

[Al-Shawwa] I don't think that it's going to have anything to do with the intifada. The intifada, as everybody understands it—in the occupied territories and outside the occupied territories, including the United States and Europe—the intifada is against Israeli occupation. This is the main aim of the intifada. [end recording]

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

'Stoning Ambush' in Yafo

TA2807122788 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jul pp 1, 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg and Joshua Brilliant]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Military sources reported no clashes yesterday, but Palestinian sources reported several incidents:

At the Al-Am'ari refugee camp Israeli cars were stoned, and soldiers later clashed with camp residents. In neighbouring Ramallah, soldiers were pelted with stones after they went into the 'Abd al-Nasir Mosque, apparently in search of merchants they believed were meeting inside. Four people were arrested. At a meeting last month, Ramallah merchants decided not to pay taxes.

Sources in Nabulus reported that scattered clashes between troops and demonstrators erupted Tuesday night after the curfew on the city was lifted. The protesters burned tyres but there were no major incidents. The sources said that Palestinian flags were raised over the Old City and in other parts of Nabulus during the six-day curfew.

Also Tuesday, troops in Hawwarah near Nabulus clashed with youths who hurled rocks at Israeli cars and military vehicles on the Jerusalem-Nabulus highway. A curfew was clamped on the village at midnight, local sources said.

Military sources confirmed the curfew, and said Qabatiyah was also under curfew. Qalqilyah and neighbouring 'Azzun are under a night curfew and the village of Kharbata near Ramallah has been closed off by troops.

Stone-throwing was also reported at Dura al-Qar', north of Ramallah. Troops blocked traffic passing the village and searched local homes, according to Palestinian reports. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 28 July in a report by Re'uven Shapira on page 1 adds: "A 'stoning ambush' was set up last night on the Egged Tel Aviv-Holon bus route. According to the driver's report, at approximately 2300 his bus, No 92, stopped at the Abu Kabir Forensic Institute in Yafo, with only a few passengers aboard. As the driver opened the door, unknown persons hiding near the stop hurled several rocks at the bus. One of them hit the driver, grazing his leg. In recent months, there have been several incidents in which stones were thrown at vehicles in the Yafo area."]

Wounded Gaza Resident Dies

TA2807165088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Hani' 'Abd al-Turk, a 37-year-old Gaza resident, today died of wounds sustained on Monday from IDF gunfire. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that Al-Turk was found wounded on the sidewalk in the center of Gaza and was taken to the hospital unconscious. Military sources said that the IDF is investigating the circumstances of his death.

IDF Officer, Corporal Sentenced

TA2807123088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Ori Nir]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] An IDF officer, who was involved in last Sunday's shooting incident in which a resident of the Al-Shati' refugee camp was wounded, received a suspended sentence for not reporting the incident. He was judged by the IDF commander of Gaza.

Military sources in the Southern Command noted that the shooting was carried out according to procedures and that the IDF officer's conduct was appropriate. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 28 July, in a report by Ran Gefen on page 6, reports the following: "The Central Command military court passed the sentence of 2 and ½ months in prison and 5 and ½ months suspended sentence on Corporal Barukh Ya'aqov, a military policeman who was charged with the brutal treatment of security prisoners."]

Court Rejects Minor's Appeal

TA2807135988 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Jul 88 p 2

[Report from Jerusalem by Tova Tzimuqi]

[Text] Last week the High Court of Justice rejected the appeal of a minor who threw stones at vehicles and endangered human life.

The minor was given a 12-month prison sentence, plus 18-months suspended sentence, and a 1,000-shekel fine by the Beersheba District Court.

Justice Eylon, the vice president of the Supreme Court, and Justices Maltz and Bejsky rejected the minor's appeal of the verdict saying: "In considering the punishment, we took into account that we are dealing with a violation of the law that has become a country-wide plague of repetitive incidents and with an inciter who encouraged others to join his foul acts. These facts make us give priority to deterrence so as to make the appellant and prospective criminals bear the punishment in mind. The claim that no damage was caused is groundless and therefore rejected. It is chance alone that determines whether a stone throwing incident causes no damage or leads to death."

4 Injured in Demonstration

TA2907043788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] In Gaza, two border policemen were injured last night during a violent demonstration in the city's Shaykh al-Radwan neighborhood. They were hit by stones. The border police used rubber bullets to disperse the crowd, and two local youths were reported to have been lightly injured from the firing.

PLO Backers Endorse Abu Sharif Peace Bid

TA2807115288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jul 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Two leading PLO supporters in the territories expressed unqualified public support last night for a document by PLO official Bassam Abu Sharif calling for direct talks with Israel in an international conference. Speaking at a panel discussion with Israelis sponsored by Peace Now, Faysal al-Husayni and Radwan Abu 'Ayyash also advocated mutual recognition and a two-state solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Al-Husayni said opposition to the Abu Sharif document within the PLO "is mainly tactical, and is not opposition to its basic content, which speaks of achieving peace by reaching a settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli states."

The document was a new departure from the Palestinian National Covenant, but not from resolutions of the Palestine National Council, said Al-Husayni, who heads the Arab Studies Society in East Jerusalem. "It is merely a clearer expression of those decisions," he said.

Comparing the document to the Allon Plan, Abu 'Ayyash, who heads the Arab Journalists Association, said the paper represented "the PLO's wish for a just peace" and is "100-per-cent sincere." "Why don't you test it, and see whether it's propaganda or not?" he said.

The two men, who were recently released from administrative detention, spoke at a packed hall at the Gerard Behar Centre in West Jerusalem to an appreciative crowd of Peace Now supporters, a sprinkling of Palestinians, and the U.S. consul-general in Jerusalem, Phillip Wilcox. They were joined on the panel by MK Ya'ir Tzaban of MAPAM and Moshe 'Amirav, who was ejected from the Likud after holding talks with Al-Husayni and other PLO backers.

Al-Husayni, who answered queries from the audience at length, took pains to present a moderate line, and even switched at one point from Arabic to Hebrew to clarify a point.

His arguments were based on symmetry:

—"As a Palestinian, my problem is with the Israeli people, and I must talk with the representatives they choose, not those I choose for them. Yitzhaq Shamir is the man Israel chose as its representative, so I must speak to him. Israel must speak to the Palestinian people, so it has to talk with the representative they chose, that is the PLO, the sole representative."

—"There has to be mutual recognition by both sides. The Palestinian side has to recognize the existence of Israel. The Israeli side has to recognize the Palestinian right to self-determination and the right to establish a state on its national soil. We are not asking the Israeli people to establish a state in another land, so don't ask us to establish our state in another place aside from Palestinian soil."

—Al-Husayni said that though he has a dream of a secular democratic state in the entire area of Israel and the territories, "I am not prepared to impose my dreams on others, just as they cannot impose theirs on me. I know this will remain a dream. We see a Palestinian state beside Israel as a realistic solution. The eternal solution is in the hands of the next generation."

—Jerusalem, he said, should be "two capitals in one city."

—On the Palestinian "right of return," Abu 'Ayyash, whose family left Yafo, said: "For me it's a dream, but perhaps we have to give up some of our dream.

Al-Husayni said there was more to the Palestinian uprising than rocks and petrol bombs, as perceived by the Israeli public. "The intifada [uprising] has a constructive, positive meaning. It is the reconstruction of Palestinian society, trying to build, under occupation, the infrastructure for a Palestinian state. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Tzaban said the Abu Sharif document "communicates a desire for dialogue" which the government had failed to test.

Tehiya Announces Updated Political Platform

TA2807141688 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jul 88 p 3

[Report by Orli Azulay-Katz]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Yesterday, the Tehiya movement announced its updated political platform. These are its main points: impose the death penalty for terrorists; make more liberal orders on opening fire; take immediate action to quash the uprising in the territories; not leaving Judaea and Samaria.

Knesset Member Yuval Ne'eman, the movement's chairman, said last night that the notion of peace talks in exchange for territory is absolutely out of the question. He said he hopes the Likud will form a coalition with Tehiya and will then have to "realign" itself along Tehiya's lines. [passage omitted]

Briefs

IDF Drug Abuse Down

A drastic drop in the number of IDF soldiers using drugs has been noted this year. Urinalysis checks conducted this year showed 400 to 500 positive cases compared with the annual average of 800 to 900. Each year the IDF Criminal Investigation Division takes between 15,000 and 20,000 urine samples. Between 60 and 70 percent of those who tested positive then face trials. A senior military official estimates that this year some 350 individuals will be brought to trial. The IDF is initiating a new method to test soldiers who are involved in serious traffic accidents for narcotics. Tests to determine blood alcohol content will be introduced at a later stage. [Text] [*TA2807174388 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 27 Jul 88 p 10*]

AIDS Statistics

Since 1987, three soldiers doing their national service and seven in the reserves have been found to be carriers of the AIDS virus. The virus was discovered in the three regular soldiers when they donated blood, and they were immediately released from the IDF. Two have already developed the disease. The seven others were freed from reserve service after the virus was found in their blood during routine tests. Some 300,000 soldiers have so far undergone blood tests for AIDS. [Summary] [*TA2807174488 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew 27 Jul 88 p 6*]

Drug Dealer Sentenced

Shim'on Sabah, a 34-year-old Yafo resident, was given a 42-month prison sentence. The prosecution claimed that the defendant sold some 120 heroin units each month from his apartment. Among his clients was an undercover police agent. The Tel Aviv District Court decided to impose a lenient sentence on Sabah because he vowed to mend his ways and join a rehabilitation program. [Summary] [*TA2807182088 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Jul 88 p 5*]

Industrial Export Statistics

Israel's industrial exports in 1987 reached $8.5 billion, of which $1.4 billion's worth were manufactured by factories in development areas. This was reported by the Industry and Trade Ministry on 27 July. [Excerpt] [*TA2807182288 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Jul 88 p 7*]

'Senior' Official Discusses West Bank Move

JN2907102988 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Jordanian-Palestinian relations—A senior Jordanian official has said that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit Amman next week in the wake of Jordan's cancellation of its development program for the occupied West Bank.

REUTER cited the Jordanian official, who asked that his name not be published, as saying Jordan also intends to dissolve the House of Representatives whose 60 seats are equally divided among representatives of the East and West Banks. He added that 'Arafat will discuss the basis of future Palestinian-Jordanian relations following the recent Jordanian move.

The Jordanian official pointed out that Jordan also seeks to discuss with the PLO how the two parties can help the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

For his part, Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu Iyad, Fatah Central Committee member, has asserted that the Jordanian Government's decision to cancel the development plan for the occupied territories will not affect Jordanian- Palestinian relations.

In a statement to the newspaper 'UKAZ published today, Abu Iyad said the PLO views its relations with Jordan within the context of fateful, fraternal, and historic ties. He said he does not expect Jordan to dissociate itself from the administrative body operating in the West Bank. This body is an administrative and financial subordinate of the Jordanian Government.

SAWT AL-SHA'B Views Decision

JN2907112188 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 29 Jul 88 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "There Is No Room for Misinterpretations as Rationality Has Prevailed"]

[Text] Following the government statement which the Council of Ministers issued yesterday—a satement which contains decisions organizing the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship—we may say now that there can be no interpretations as long as the context is clear, frank, and binding to those who issued it as well as to others. The Council of Minister's meeting discussed the duties of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan toward the Palestine question. It also discussed requirements to project the Palestinian identity, to enable the PLO to assume all its responsibilities, to remove doubts about Jordan's clear stand, and to end the misinterpretation of Jordanian efforts designed to support the Palestinian people's steadfastness under occupation. Such Jordanian efforts are described as suspect behavior designed to attain sharing of administrative responsibility and also to contain and circumvent the PLO. They were also described as conflicting with the Palestinian people's aspirations for independence on their homeland.

Prior to the issuance of the Jordanian statement and its decisions, numerous circles abroad tried to analyze the prime minister's statements and their significance as well as the changes that may take place in Jordan to project the Palestinian identity and give the PLO a free hand to represent the Palestinian people. These analyses and conclusions varied. Some thought that a dissolution of the House of Representatives may be the start of such changes. Others believe that such changes may begin by stopping the payment of salaries to thousands of employees and pensioners in the occupied West Bank. There were also other realistic and unrealistic analyses. In fact, a careful reading into His Majesty King Husayn's speeches in the governorates during the past month of Ramadan as well as his majesty's speech at the extraordinary Arab summit conference held in Algiers will give a sure impression of the measures the Jordanian leadership will adopt away from analyses and conclusions.

The Jordanian statement crossed many t's and dotted many i's which some people could not read well. The PLO wants to tackle the Palestine question on its own in the international forums. Jordan does not mind if the PLO does whatever it likes and is responsible for its actions in the diplomatic forums since it is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, according to the 1974 Rabat summit conference. The PLO may also seek to form an independent delegation to the international conference, to which we do not object. Morevoer, the PLO may seek a joint Arab delegation, which we do not reject, or it may desire a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, to which we also do not object.

The expected Jordanian measures are not actually Jordanian measures, but PLO measures. Hence, if the PLO wants to be the sole representative of the Palestinian people, then it may do so. But the PLO alone will be responsible for the negative or positive consequences of the required measures. Jordan will be able to find sound democratic means and constitutional measures which will safeguard Jordanian interests. However, Jordan will continue to be committed to the Palestine question and careful to maintain the Palestinian people's national identity in the face of occupation. What happened did not undermine the clear and firm Jordanian national and pan-Arab policy but it was a political decision sought by the PLO. Jordan does not object to the adoption of measures that will give the PLO a free hand to represent the Palestinian people, nor on their representation.

We have offered our martyrs' blood for the beloved Palestinian land since the beginning of the Palestine question and throughout its developments in various phases. we have also remained faithful to the pledge we made to the Palestinian people at the Jericho conference. This continues to be the case so that it is impossible to separate the two peoples who

have lived through thick and thin. The PLO wants to have a free hand. We will support it and will not withhold that hand which seeks welfare for the Palestinian people. We will extend assistance and support to this hand just as we extend to the Palestinian people under occupation all that helps maintain their steadfastness, patience, and living. We support the PLO in all that it seeks. However, we can give the PLO, out of our pan-Arab affiliation, all that will help it serve both the Palestinian people and the Palestine question.

If future circumstances come when the Palestinian people may freely and without any pressure or coercion express their free viewpoint about their own future by dissolving the existing unity between them and us, then they can have what they want. And if they will adhere to unity, then they will also have what they want. We do not want to hear someday that we obstructed the Palestinian people's free will. Just as we offered sacrifices in the past, we will continue to do so in the future and will not relinquish our pan-Arab duties toward the palestinian people. however, we want to record a stand, that is, we will support the PLO as long as it faithfully and honestly serves the Palestine question. But we will not do so if the PLO becomes a burden on the Palestinian people and on their sacred pan-Arab cause.

TIMES Views Prospects of Arab-Israeli Conflict

JN2607115888 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 24 Jul 88 p 4

[Editorial: "World-Wide Disengagement?"]

[Text] Iran's unconditional acceptance of the United Nations call for a ceasefire in the protracted Iran-Iraq war cannot but strengthen the rising feeling that the international political climate and the superpower relations have taken a dramatic turn over the past year towards the settlement of a host of regional conflicts which appeared to be intractable. The outstanding examples of the shift are the Geneva agreement on Afghanistan, the four-party accord on Nambian independence, the resumed Chad-Libya dialogue over their border dispute, the Vietnamese decision to withdraw its forces from Kampuchea and the Jakarta talks that begin tomorrow on how to settle the Kampuchean problem, the shaky but holding Sandinista-Contra ceasefire in Nicaragua and the dramatic Warsaw Pact offer to launch talks on reducing conventional arms and troops in Europe.

The common denominator in all these regional hotspots is direct or superpower involvement, and there is little doubt that none of these deadlocked conflicts could ever have hoped for solutions had it not been for the vivid change in superpower thinking that began with the signing of the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty in November last year. Needless to say it was the interaction between better superpower relations and the realisation of the belligerents of the folly in pursuing protracted conflicts that brought about progress in defusing regional powderkegs. But let us not forget that much more devastating and tragic conflicts await solution; the people of Lebanon and Ethiopia will no doubt continue to remind the world of their plight after years of bloody strife.

Having said all this, we are at a loss to assess what lies in store for the Palestinian people and the Arab-Israeli conflict. Do we take the prospects of peace in the Gulf as the forerunner for superpower cooperation to address the fundamental issues involved in the Middle East problem or do we resign ourselves to the possibility that the Arab-Israeli status quo will continue until such time the Palestinian uprising by itself will force the Israeli hand to seek a just and honourable peace?

Project To Extract Uranium From Phosphoric Acid

JN2807090988 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 28 Jul 88 p 8

[Excerpts] Amman—SAWT AL-SHA'B—Dr Eng Salih Bashir al-Dabbas, from the Jordanian Phosphate Mining Company, said the company established a private laboratory in its research department to extract uranium from phosphoric acid in Jordan. In a study on "Jordanian Phosphate and Uranium", Dr al-Dabbas said the project is still in its initial stages, and the IAEA has earmarked about $100,000 to assist the project in its laboratorial stage. He added that the required equipment and apparatus will now be imported in accordance with this assistance. Dr al-Dabbas said that, to begin with, samples from the Al-Rusayfah phosphate mine were analyzed covering all phosphate and non-phosphate layers, as well as coarse and fine phosphate deposits. A similar study on samples from the Al-Hasa, Al-Abyad, and Al-Shidiyah mines will soon be made, he said. [passage omitted]

Dr al-Dabbas said that no real estimations of the uranium reserves in Jordanian phosphate, based on detailed and accurate statistics, were made. However, an initial figure of 150,000 tonnes can be considered until a comprehensive survey of the uranium in all the phosphate regions in Jordan is made within the aforementioned extraction project.

Kuwaiti Airliner Hijacker Handed Over to Syrians
NC2907091988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 29 Jul (MENA)—A senior security source in Beirut has reported that 23-year-old Qasim Zayn al-Din, one of the hijackers of the Kuwaiti airliner "Al-Jabiriyah," has recently been handed over to Syria as one of eight persons handed over by Hizballah to the Syrian forces on charges of taking part in kidnapping operations in Beirut.

In a statement to the AL-ITTIHAD paper published today, the source said the Syrian forces arrested a senior Hizballah military official called Qasim al-Khalil last week and moved him to Al-Biqa'. He was charged with opening fire on the convoy of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian intelligence in Lebanon, on the night of the Syrian forces' entry into the southern suburb. [passage omitted]

Shi'ite Council Urges Release of Foreign Hostages
NC2907111388 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] The Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council has called for holding the presidential elections on the basis of a phased conciliatory formula that would ensure political forms to end the civil war, establish the mainstays of national unity, and revive the effectiveness of the state's institutions.

Mufti Jubayl Shaykh Hasan 'Awwad held a news conference at the provisional headquarters of the Shi'ite Council in Bi'r Hasan this morning, during which he read the text of the final statement issued by the council's General Legislative Committee, which convened under the chairmanship of Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din yesterday.

Reading the statement, Shaykh 'Awwad reiterated that the armed resistance will continue against the Israeli occupation and stressed the need for all the resistance fighters to join the joint operations room. The statement reaffirms the council's commitment to the UN forces and called for the implementation of Resolution 425. The statement also emphasized the need to give every means of support to the Palestinian uprising.

The council urged all ulema to dissociate themselves from all party trends. It also called for the release of the foreign hostages held in Lebanon and requested that their captors swiftly respond to the efforts aimed at ensuring their release.

Amal's Dawud on Civilian Administration, South
NC2907063988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Dawud Dawud, Amal Movement Executive Committee chairman, has asserted that civilian administration is one of the points of difference between the Amal Movement and Minister Walid Junblatt. He said: We consider civilian administration a prelude to the establishment of cantons and partition.

In an interview with AL-DIYAR, Dawud stressed his objection to Hizballah's return to the south. He also voiced fear that the Palestinians may cause a flare-up of the situation in East Sidon and Iqlim al-Tuffah, which would put the South in a pincer grip—a Christian security belt along the border strip and a Palestinian belt in East Sidon and Jazzin, as he put it.

2 Syrian Soldiers 'Seriously Wounded'
NC2907054688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Two Syrian soldiers were seriously wounded in Corniche al-Mazra'ah in West Beirut last night when an unidentified person fired at them from a silencer-equipped gun. They were taken to the American University Hospital.

[In a variant report on this same incident, (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 0445 GMT states the following: "Two Syrian soldiers were killed near the Abu Khudur stores in Corniche al-Mazra'ah at 1730 yesterday and the Syrian occupation forces made arrests in the area later in the evening. The Khalil 'Akkawi unit of the 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for the operation, noting that a clash ensued with the Syrian intelligence personnel."]

3 SLA Soldiers Wounded in Jazzin Shelling
NC2907053388 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] The South Lebanese Army [SLA] position in Taw'amat Niha in the Jazzin area came under intermittent artillery and rocket fire for 2 hours yesterday evening from the 'Ayn al-Tinah area. The SLA returned fire and silenced the source. Three soldiers were slightly injured in the shelling. The terrorists' losses are not known. The outskirts of the town of Jazzin also came under rocket fire but there were no casualties.

Afghanistan

Mas'ud Said Negotiating Cease-Fire With Kabul

BK2807115088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1147 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 28 (AFP)—One of the main leaders of the Afghan resistance has been negotiating a cease-fire with the Soviet-backed government in Kabul, two Pakistani dailies said Thursday.

The reports were immediately denied by the leader of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud's moderate fundamentalist faction, the Jamiyat-e Eslami.

The FRONTIER POST in Peshawar reported that Mr Mas'ud, the well known rebel commander in the Panjsher Valley, northeast of Kabul, had negotiated a cease-fire with Afghan Government forces which began in early July.

THE MUSLIM, in Islamabad, said negotiations were continuing between Mr Mas'ud and the government of Afghan President Najibullah.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, the head of Jamiyat-e Eslami, issued a statement calling the allegations "false and unfounded."

"These dailies try to deceive their readers....Mas'ud is not in contact with the communists," the statement said.

Diplomats in Islamabad said Mr Mas'ud, called the "Lion of Panjsher," had reached an accord in May with Soviet forces pledging not to attack Red Army soldiers returning home from Afghanistan along the strategic Salang Highway which runs near the Panjsher Valley.

But he did not reach an agreement with Afghan troops in May, they added.

The FRONTIER POST quoted "reliable sources" as saying that Kabul had offered Mr Mas'ud a ministerial post. One of Mr Mas'ud's brothers was currently in Kabul for negotiations, said the POST.

In 1985 Mr Mas'ud agreed to a year-long cease-fire with Soviet forces. He then resumed combat against Afghan-Soviet forces. He commands a force of between 4,000 and 5,000 well-trained men in Panjsher.

The mujahidin bases in Panjsher are well placed to cut the highway linking Kabul to the Soviet Union and to threaten Kabul from the north.

Diplomats said forces under Mr Mas'ud were currently training thousands of fighters in the Panjsher to "march on Kabul in a few months."

Memorandums No 59, 60 Handed to UNGOMAP

LD2807184088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry liaison office for coordination with the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan [UNGOMAP] reports that yesterday the 59th Afghan memorandum on Pakistan's violation of the Geneva accords was handed to UNGOMAP in Kabul. The memorandum provides details on six violations by Pakistan of Paragraph 1, Article 2 of the Geneva accords.

The 60th Afghan memorandum on three violations by Paksitan of Article 2, Document 1 of the Geneva accords was also handed over to UNGOMAP this afternoon.

The delegation is requested to investigate the cases mentioned in these memorandums and to present the results of its findings to the Afghan authorities and to the UN secretary general's envoy.

Soviets Take Over Kabul Airport Security

BK2807143688 Hong Kong AFP in English 1420 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 28 (AFP)—Soviet forces have taken over the defence of Kabul Airport after a spate of rebel rocket attacks in which four aircraft were destroyed and 17 people killed, Western diplomats here said Thursday.

Meanwhile, resistance sources said two Soviet aircraft were destroyed at Qandahar Airport while a third was downed by a U.S.-made Stinger anti-aircraft missile during an offensive on Afghanistan's second largest city.

The diplomats said four aircraft of unknown type were destroyed Sunday when four rockets hit Kabul Airport.

Three other rockets missed the target and landed in the Char Qala, Wazirabad and Qala Fatehullah Districts, killing at least 17 people, the diplomats said.

"Soviet forces have taken over complete responsibility for the night defense of the airport," they said quoting Afghan sources.

Perimeter security has been upgraded, they said, noting that two heavy artillery pieces had been added to a post guarding the eastern approaches while armoured vehicles had been positioned on a small hill overlooking the airport.

Several Soviet armoured vehicles were also guarding the main gate to the international arrival and departure buildings, they said.

New posts have been set up on the main ridgeline overlooking the terminal and MI-8 helicopters in regular flights offer protection, they said.

Resistance sources said the mujahidin rocket attacks had killed 60 Afghan troops and jeopardised security in Kabul during the 'Id Moslem festival (Sunday-Tuesday), adding that "some civilians" also died.

Kabul has said that more than 50 civilians died in repeated rocket attacks last week.

Rebels destroyed two Soviet aircraft in a rocket attack on Qandahar airfield Monday and shot down a third, while an attack on a nearby barracks left 55 Afghan troops dead, resistance sources said.

The mujahidin also destroyed two tanks and three armoured vehicles and overran three military posts, they said.

Earlier last week "fierce fighting" broke out when rebels attacked an Army garrison in Arghandab adjacent to Qandahar, killing 80 Afghan soldiers, the sources said.

The sources, admitting an unusually high toll, said 37 mujahidin died and 50 were wounded in the fighting.

In eastern Paktia Province, guerrillas captured an Afghan Army base in Tangi and captured a large quantity of arms, ammunition and food, the sources said.

Six Afghan soldiers were killed and six, including two officers, surrendered to the mujahidin, they said.

Aircraft later bombed Urgoon and Baqir Districts, killing six people and inflicting heavy damage in "indiscriminate raids," they added.

Resistance Forces, Government Clashes Reported

Armed Forces Seize Munitions

LD2807172788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] As a result of operations by the country's Armed Forces in response to operations by extremist groups belonging to the Gulbuddin band in the environs of Nuristan and Laghman Provinces, a number of criminal extremists including [name indistinct] and Qari Muhammad Yosuf, two of their ringleaders, were killed. According to a BIA military section report, in these operations, which were carried out with the direct help of the locals, a quantity of the weapons and ammunition of the extremists was seized by the Armed Forces.

According to another report, a female Norwegian, who recently illegally entered Laghman Province with the help of the Gulbuddin band to give medical assistance to the armed extremist groups, was violated by Eng Salim, one of the extremists, and was subsequently blown up by a mine.

The reports add that this matter has created discord and severe clashes among the extremist groups and resulted in the death of Eng Salim and another extremist.

5 'Extremists' Crushed

LD2807202988 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] The BAKHTAR military section reports that a convoy carrying weapons and ammunition belonging to the extremists, which was moving toward the Kapisa District, was attacked by the Armed Forces in the villages of Laghman Province.

The report adds that as a result of the action, which took place recently at (Dasht-e Babur) between the Province of Laghman and [word indistinct], enemy weapons and ammunition, including surface-to-surface missiles, recoilless guns, mortars, and dozens of light weapons, were destroyed and 20 of the [word indistinct] were eliminated. Also, as a result of the operation five of those guarding the convoy were crushed and two were captured.

'Extremist' Clashes Noted

LD2807194688 Kabul Domestic Service In Dari 1600 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Internal differences between extremist groups, stemming from distribution of the people's plundered property, have recently increased and caused bloody clashes between them. The BIA military section reports that as a result of clashes between armed extremist groups in Vardak Province, one of the notorious ringleaders of the Gulbuddin band, Meyagol, was killed and a number of other men from the belligerent parties were injured.

'Notorious Ringleader' Arrested

LD2907062588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 28, BAKHTAR—A notorious ringleader known as Hasan Kalamaida [name as received] belonging to the extremist Harakat band has been recently arrested by the Armed Forces of Afghanistan. He was engaged in killing the people and looting the people's properties in the suburbs of Balkh Province.

He had planned to carry out an armed attack on Qezel Abad [name as received] village Nahr-e Shahi District, Balkh Province, on 'Id days and to loot the people's properties.

On the other hand, twenty families comprising 100 persons returned from abroad to their home in Badghis and Nangarhar Provinces availing of the policy of national reconciliation and the provisions of Geneva agreements.

Najibullah Sends Message to DPRK's Kim Il-song

LD2907091788 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 28, BAKHTAR—The president of the Republic of Afghanistan and general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, Najibullah, has sent today a congratulatory message to Pyongyang addressed to Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on the occasion of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the first ceasefire treaty on the Korean war.

In the message while stressing solidarity of the people of Afghanistan with the peoople of the DPRK it is also hoped that the existing friendly relations between the Republic of Afghanistan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea be further strengthened in future.

16 Kg of Hashish Seized at Jalalabad Market

LD2907010788 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1000 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Sixteen kg of hashish, which was transported to Jalalabad with the cooperation of the extremists in order to addict our compatriots, was discovered and seized yesterday by the officials of the Anticrime Department of Nangarhar Province. According to the BAKHTAR military section, the substance, which was cleverly placed in the Hasan market in Jalalabad, was seized and the perpetrator, (Jamaloddin), was arrested. The case is under investigation.

Bangladesh

Opposition Party Expels 6 'Senior Members'

BK2807092488 Hong Kong AFP in English 0857 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Dhaka, July 28 (AFP)—Bangladesh opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia has expelled six senior members of her Bangladesh Nationalist Party for breaking party discipline, party sources said Thursday.

The expelled leaders were all members of the Party's National Executive Committee and included former Party Secretary-General Obaidur Rahman, former Deputy Prime Minister Jamaluddin Ahmed and former Dhaka Mayor Abul Hasanat.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Executive Committee late Wednesday. Begum Zia presided over the meeting which was not attended by the expelled leaders, sources said.

Begum Zia told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that the party took certain decisions at the meeting but she refused to confirm or deny the expulsions until the Party Secretariat made a formal announcement.

Mr Rahman told AFP that he had not received any formal notice of the expulsion. But he added that such a decision would be "most unfortunate" and was likely to "destroy" the party.

The alleged expulsions came weeks after Mr Rahman, dismissed as secretary general on June 21, brought to surface internal bickerings when a group within the Party tried to make changes to its constitution.

Mr Rahman and several colleagues reportedly met last month to demand a meeting of the Party's Council which has not met in six years since Begum Zia took control of the party from her husband, President Ziaur Rahman, who was killed in an abortive Army rebellion in 1981.

Pakistani Finance Minister Meets Ershad, Departs

BK2807160088 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] The visiting Pakistani minister for commerce, finance, planning and development, Dr Mahbubul Haq, called on President Ershad in Dhaka today. Dr Haq handed over a messages from President Ziaul Haq of Pakistan to President Ershad.

The Pakistani minister apprised President Ershad of the satisfactory progress of his discussion with Bangladeshi Government leaders and officials during the last few days. President Ershad expressed his satisfaction over the progress of discussion about bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Dr Mahbubul Haq also called on Prime Minister Moudud Ahmed in Dhaka today. They discussed matters of mutual interest. Mr Moudud Ahmed explained to the Pakistani minister the salient features of the policies and reforms undertaken by the present government for bringing about desired socioeconomic uplift. The prime minister also talked about various measures taken by the government for attracting foreign private investment in joint venture projects in Bangladesh.

So far, 29 agreements have been signed on joint venture projects after the investment forum meeting in Dhaka last year. An Italian investors team has also signed a memorandum of understanding for joint venture project. The Pakistani minister appreciated the pragmatic policy and measures of reforms taken by the present government and lauded its success in different fields. He said Pakistan will always help Bangladesh in its efforts to bring about a qualitative change in the lifestyle of its people. Dr Haq has now left for home after his week-long visit to Bangladesh.

India

Gandhi Comments on Pakistan's Nuclear Plans

BK2807091488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, assured the Rajya Sabha today that on no account the country's security will be compromised. He was intervening briefly during a reply to a question regarding development of atomic bombs by Pakistan.

In reply to the main question, the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, said the government's attention has been drawn to a report that Pakistan has developed four complete atomic bombs that can be delivered by its F-16 fighter bombers or missiles or jet aircraft. He said Pakistan's nuclear program has been brought to the notice of the U.S. Government and leaders of various friendly countries visited by the prime minister.

In reply to a supplementary, Mr Narasimha Rao said it is very difficult to come to any meaningful dialogue with Pakistan on its nuclear program. They flatly deny any such thing.

In reply to another supplementary regarding supply of missiles by China to Pakistan, the minister said the government is trying to check facts about this.

Parliament Holds 'Heated' Debate on Bofors Deal

BK2807161088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] In the Lok Sabha today, the opposition members demanded appointment of another joint parliamentary committee [JPC] to go into the Bofors gun deal. This, they said, is necessary in the light of recent publication of certain documents in a national daily regarding the alleged payment of commission in connection with the Bofors contract.

The ruling party members, on the other hand, strongly defended the deal and refuted all these allegations. The members were taking part in a special discussion on the subject marked by frequent noisy and heated exchanges.

Disputing the authenticity of the documents published in the newspaper, the ruling party members said the government has already taken the right step by asking the highest investigating agency in the country to go into the matter.

Intervening in the debate, the energy minister, Mr Vasant Sathe, charged the opposition with harping on its one-point program of (?harassing) the government. It has been denigrating the Congress-I and the prime minister and indulging in character assassination. Mr Sathe's speech was interrupted by prolonged procedural wrangles.

Quoting from the report of the joint parliamentary committee, he said the finance secretary had told the committee that the file regarding the selection of Bofors Company for supply of guns was put up to the then finance minister [V.P. Singh] who had approved it. Mr Sathe pointed out that Mr V.P. Singh has now the cheek to say that he had no knowledge of the deal.

Again quoting from the report, Mr Sathe said that in reply to close questions, the official of the finance ministry had said that the then finance minister had raised absolutely no objection. The energy minister asserted that the country has chosen the best gun in the world and said that anyone berating it will be demoralizing the defense forces.

When Mr Sathe was quoting from the JPC report, Mr V.P. Singh demanded that the relevant file be placed on the table of the house. This led to acrimonious exchanges and procedural wrangles for over 40 minutes. Several opposition members supported Mr Singh's demand which was overruled by the deputy speaker. As noisy scenes continued, the speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, came to the house and restored order.

Mr Singh and other opposition members demanded that the Bofors Company be blacklisted for all future deals. Some of them wanted the Swedish public prosecutor to be requested to go into the latest documents.

Earlier, initiating the discussion, Mr Narayan Choubey, CPI, said that the published documents clearly establish that commission was paid for winning the contract and Bofors Company had violated the terms of the contract and committed a fraud on the people. He said the story of paying winding-up charges has been proved baseless by the documents. The discussion is completed and the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, will reply tomorrow.

Pant Rejects New Probe

BK2907094488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has rejected the opposition demand for a fresh probe into the Bofors gun deal by another joint parliamentary committee [JPC]. He said nothing new has come out on the matter. However, further inquiries are going on. Mr Pant was replying to a special discussion on the issue which was completed by the House yesterday.

The defense minister asserted in the Lok Sabha today that all facts regarding the Bofors gun deal have come to light only as a result of the efforts of the government and the JPC. The English daily, THE HINDU, pursued the matter further and got some more documents. Mr Pant was replying to the special discussion on the issue completed by the house yesterday. [sentence repeated from first graf as heard]

The defense minister refuted the opposition allegation that the government had not taken any action on the matter. Right from the beginning, he said, the government took the initiative and pressurized the Swedish Government to find out the fact as soon as allegations of payment of commission by the Bofors Company were made by the media.

It is an undeniable fact that Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had told the late Swedish prime minister, Mr Olof Palme, that there should not be any agent while finalizing the Bofors gun contract, he added. Mr Pant

said this fully establishes the bona fides of the prime minister in the matter. He said the Swedish Government took up the inquiry only after the pressure put by the Government of India, as normally it does not go into such commercial deals.

Mr Pant said the government did not want to play politics with defense, and therefore, urged the opposition to cooperate with the JPC in finding out the truth. But, they did not join the JPC. Mr Pant said the government had made all relevant records available to the JPC. Senior civil and Army officials, both serving and retired, also testified before the committee.

Investigating agencies were placed to the disposal of the committee which also made use of them. The attorney general gave his advice to the committee on legal aspects. Mr Pant thanked the JPC for the pains it had taken to go into the roots of the matter and for meticulously examining the records.

Referring to its report, Mr Pant said the JPC has come to the conclusion that there was no middleman involved in the commercial negotiation and no commission was paid in the deal. According to the JPC, the Bofors gun is technically the best which the government was able to get at the cheapest price.

Mr Pant, whose speech was frequently interrupted by opposition members, told the house that he had to defend the action taken by the former defense minister on many occasions. He said Mr V.P. Singh also had a hand in the approval of the Bofors gun deal. Mr Pant added that it is nothing but an irony of fate that Mr Singh was finance minister for much longer time.

House Approves 'President's Rule' Extension

BK2807162688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Parliament has approved the extension of president's rule in Tamil Nadu for a further period of 6 months from the 30th of this month. The statutory resolution moved by the minister of state for home, Mr P. Chidambaram, was passed by the Rajya Sabha today. It was approved by the Lok Sabha yesterday.

Replying to the debate, Mr Chidambaram said the present task in Tamil Nadu is to bring back stability, discipline, and direction to the administration. Assuring the house that the elections to the state assembly will be held at the earliest, he said nobody from his party has pleaded for the postponement of elections, while leaders from other parties have spoken for the postponement.

Elaborating the circumstances necessitating extension of president's rule in the state, Mr Chidambaram said it was the collective opinion of the governor and his advisers that elections could not be held under the present circumstances.

Not satisfied with the minister's reply almost the entire opposition walked out. Earlier, participating in the discussion, the opposition members demanded immediate elections. They said elections are being postponed in the state to enable the ruling party to take advantage of the situation. Ruling party members, however, refuted the allegation and said the situation is not conducive for holding elections.

ROK Delegation Holds Trade Talks in Delhi

BK2907044088 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] South Korea has expressed its keenness to promote industrial joint ventures with India. This desire was expressed today at a meeting of the trade delegates of the two countries in New Delhi. The leader of the visiting Korean delegation, Dr Kim Chu-su, expressed satisfaction at the signing of a mutual cooperation agreement between the Trade Development Authority of India and the Korean Trade Promotion Corporation.

Trade between the two countries increased from over 277 crore rupees in 1982-83 to a little over 470 crores in 1987-88. India has an unfavorable balance of trade with South Korea.

Delhi Rounds Up Punjab Terrorist Operations

BK2807163288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, one person was seriously injured and three chemical laboratories and some chemist shops were destroyed in a powerful bomb blast in a building outside the Gura Nanak hospital at Majitha Road in Amritsar this morning. The injured person was a chemist. Medicines and chemical equipment worth several Lakh rupees were destroyed in the blast.

Elsewhere in the state, terrorists gunned down three persons including a woman, while two terrorists were killed by villagers and special police jawans [personnel] last night.

5 Killed in Punjab

BK2907064688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, five persons were shot dead and one seriously injured by terrorists in separate incidents since last night. In Amritsar District, three farmers were shot dead in village Nangal Dayal and two in village Ratankalan. In Jullundur District, terrorists shot at and seriously injured one person in village Balantpur early this morning.

'Shoot-at-Sight' Orders Given in Meghalaya

BK2907030688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] In Meghalaya, shoot-at-sight orders have been issued following acts of sabotage to power lines and equipment. The Army and paramilitary forces have been deployed at vital installations in upper Shillong where power supply was disrupted.

The state electric supply workers union is on strike. The state government has already issued orders banning strikes in all essential services from the 22d of this month.

The chief minister, Mr Sangma, had discussions with the MSEB [Meghalaya State Electricity Board] officials yesterday on the power situation.

Ziaul Haq's Non-Party Election Move Criticized

BK2807082588 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 23 Jul 88 p 11

[Editorial: "Zia in Square One"]

[Text] As could easily have been predicted, President Zia refuses to consider democratic rule for Pakistan in any form except strictly on his own terms. After the uncere-monious sack of Prime Minister Junejo and dissolution of the National and provincial assemblies on May 29, it was conjectured that General Zia would devise a new political structure.

But it is as much a lack of political innovativeness in him as his inexplicable self-confidence that he sticks to his old political theory of letting individuals to contest election while keeping parties at an arms length. Partly responding to Western pressure, he has announced November 16 as the election date, but has made clear that the poll will be on a non-party basis, as in 1985. That election was flaunted by General Zia as a great democratic success in Pakistan. It threw up Mohammad Khan Junejo whom he nominated as the President's errand boy.

The democracy-game got uncomfortably sour the day General Zia realised that the non-party prime minister, Mr Junejo, had grown wings, formed his Muslim League and was emerging as a rival power centre to the general's, backed up by the force of a political party.

After the wheel has turned full circle, General Zia is going to experiment with partyless democracy all over again. There is no certainty why it should succeed now when it had failed earlier. Obviously, he does not think this is a god that has failed.

In holding on to this view the Pakistan president may be nursing two hopes. First, that by calling the tune and setting the rules of the game, he could let [allow] political parties a limited role. He would not ban them from working for individual candidates, but no party symbol or rally would be permitted. This may help to partly meet the criticism that he is dead-set against political parties ruling a country.

Secondly, and more importantly, General Zia would hate to see a sizable People's Party in the National Assembly under Ms Benazir Bhutto staking claim to form [a] government. Ms Bhutto and many of her party colleagues may still manage to enter the legislature, but it would be legally General Zia's prerogative to nominate the person he wants as prime minister. Such games of pick and choose are a great aid in causing personal jealousies and divisions among legislators with the same political persuasion.

All this, however, is still in the realm of speculation. What obtains on [the] ground is a Pakistan picture that in 1988 remains unchanged from what it was in 1985. In a striking contrast to Alice in Wonderland, where someone ran the fastest to remain where he was, General Zia is stubbornly glued to square one while proclaiming to cross new landmarks.

PRC Reportedly Supplies F-7P Planes to Pakistan

BK2807151688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] China is said to have supplied F-7P planes to Pakistan. Reports say the planes were given to the Pakistani officials at Chengdu aircraft factory on Sichuang Province. The number of planes Pakistan received has not been disclosed.

Briefs

Rocket Fuel Plant

India has launched a factory to manufacture rocket fuel. Situated at Tanuku in West Godavari District of Andhra Pradesh, the plant will produce liquid propellants to be used in the proposed polar satellite launch vehicle. [Excerpt] [*BK2407162188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Jul 88*]

Iran

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Delivers Prayers Sermons

LD2907124888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Report on the Friday prayers sermons delivered by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis and acting commander in chief, on 29 July at Tehran University—recorded]

[Text] The Tehran Friday prayers today were attended by a vast number of the faithful and committed prayerful and fighters of Islam. At Tehran University Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani offered his greetings for

'Eid-e Qorban and the coming of the great Muslim festival, the Ghadir-e Qom, as well as the birthday anniversary of the 10th Glittering Star of the Imamate.

He then explained the historic message of the imam of the ummah on accepting the UN Security Resolution comparing this phase with the Hodaydiyyah event [refers to peace treaty Muhammad signed with Meccans following his flight to Al-Madinah] during the life of the dear prophet of Islam, Muhammad ibn 'Abdallah—God's blessings be on him and his scion—and the prophet's confrontation with the polytheists and hypocrities. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The imam's moved stemmed from divine guidance, a bright heart, and a soul in touch with the worlds above. We witness in this move God's guidance and spiritual help.

The Majlis speaker then referred to the evil propaganda of arrogant groups who portray the Islamic Republic of Iran as a warmonger. He then said: The acceptance of the resolution coupled with the continuation of the misdeeds of the warmongering Iraqi regime has made the world understand that Iran is a victim. Our country's people, meanwhile, have been satisfied [as heard] that they should embark on their sacred defense. The roaring flood of self-sacrificing people rushing to the battlefields in the past few days testifies to this.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: If we intend to implement the aspiration of the Islamic Revolution—the key to the hearts of the world peoples—then we must perform the right kind of logical political move along with our self-sacrifices as the dear prophet of Islam did. He was always careful not to fight several enemies at the same time. We must also adopt the same practice.

The acting commander in chief stressed: Thanks to the timely move by his holiness the Imam, we have attained a very good political position. Our acceptance of the resolution must not be interpreted as if it were a compromise or submission to extortionism. This new move puts an end to our unnecessarily making enemies.

Explaining the Iranian position following the acceptance of the resolution, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: Now the world either accepts that the resolution be implemented as it is or it does not. Now, if the world does not accept it, then is it better to continue the war this way or as it was previously?

All our people are united over this issue. If we say today that a university and a school must be closed or that a particular commodity is out of stock, everybody knows that such a situation has not been brought about by our actions; rather, it has been imposed on us. Now if the world, Saddam, and his supporters decide to continue the war, then they must know that our strength is far greater today than it was before the acceptance of the resolution. With their arrival in the battlefields in such vast numbers and with such great faith, we can deal very effective blows on the Iraqi regime if the war continues.

In another part of his prayer sermons, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the incorrect assumptions by the enemies of the Islamic Revolution regarding the relationship between the leadership and the ummah. He said: They gathered thousands of their forces from all over the world, acting on their unfounded analysis, and placed their resources and equipment at the disposal of those forces attacking the Islamic Republic. In accordance with a specific policy they brought their deceived forces inside Iran. These forces were routed at a point 35 km from Bakhtaran by the self-sacrificing forces of the Army, the IRGC, and the mobilization troops.

The acting commander in chief referred to the cruelty of the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq] in the massacre of the people and said: In Eslamabad-e Gharb, they rained bullets on some 30 patients at a hospital, martyring them all.

He added: The Marsad operation removed the cancer within the Islamic Revolution in which a great deal had been invested and which could have been a nuisance for the people of this country some day. This was a conspiracy which should have been removed. Now if the Iraqi regime intends to resort again to mischief, it will experience what the hypocrites did.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani again stressed the need for the people's vast and all-embracing presence on the battlefields. He said: If our nation lets down its guard even for a moment, our enemies will be encouraged to continue their mischief. We must be prepared. Thanks to such readiness victory is achieved.

At the end of his sermons, the acting commander in chief referred to Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's proposal that an allegiance march be held on 'Eid-e Ghadir. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: The allegiance ceremony must be organized in a very magnificent way because the march itself ranks as a great operation. The more magnificent the participation in the allegiance march to the imam, the better it can ruin the dreams of the enemies of Islam who nurture hopes of defeating the Islamic Revolution.

Khamene'i Addresses Troops on Frontlines

LD2807171288 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—President 'Ali Khamene'i today said the epic resistance of Iran's Muslim people against the enemy during their nearly eight-year-old sacred defence has laid the foundations of a perpetual national pride.

The president, addressing a group of Muslim combatants at a war theater, said that it is a great pride for the Iranian people to have single handedly fought an enemy fully supported by all world powers.

Khamene'i, who doubles as chairman of the Supreme Defence Council (SDC), said in view of the massive military aid provided by world powers, the Iraqi Ba'thist regime should have won the war but the epic resistance of the Iranian Muslims has made it powerless against the Islamic Republic.

The SDC head pointed out "we have documented evidence proving the Iraqi regime, contrary to its propaganda, is unable to keep up a long-term assault because of both military and economic reasons."

Elsewhere in his speech, the president said in stark contrast to the Iraqi regime which received tens of billions of dollars in loan and in military equipment, Iran's Muslim people relying solely on faith and their own potentials have displayed heroic resistance against the enemy for almost 8 years.

President Khamene'i, saying that Iran's formal acceptance of U.N. Resolution 598 has disarmed the enemy, noted that both the rejection and acceptance of Resolution 598 by the Baghdad regime is in the interest of the Islamic Republic.

Because, he said, in the case of Iraq's rejection of Resolution 598 the world will condemn the Ba'thist regime and if it accepts the resolution its barbarous and aggressive nature cannot be satisfied.

Further on Khamene'i's Remarks

NC2807213988 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1545 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Address by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, to soldiers "at the fronts"; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] I pray that all of you are successful. We are very happy to be among you, to be with you. God willing, your crushing fire will burn the enemies of Islam and destroy them. We are ready to visit our brothers at all times and talk to them. We are at your disposal. [passage omitted]

According to my assessment of the enemy's situation and international affairs, I feel that since the war began there has rarely been a time when the enemy has been so unprepared as at present. Even when we were achieving major victories, as in 1981-82 or in the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, the "Karbala'-5" operations, and others, I think that at that time the enemy was relatively more prepared mentally and militarily. The enemy does not have the will, the inclination, or the spirit to fight. What is persuading him to indulge in these attacks results from an error in his analyses and calculations. He thinks the Islamic Republic is incapable of defending itself and tired of war.

The acceptance of Resolution No 598 has brought about this major error of judgment. Of course, we must accept the fact that we were partly responsible for his error, that is, we did display some laxity. It would be inappropriate not to review our past mistakes. Undoubtely, our laxity and shortcomings at all levels made the enemy more covetous. However, the essence of the revolution, its honed sharpness, was something he had not seen or experienced, and he made a mistake and followed a mirage. In my opinion, now is the time to inflict the blow of the revolution on the enemy, who is spiritless and unmotivated, and does not have the will to attack. He is suffering from the malady of pride. [passage omitted]

I have 100 percent faith in the fire of the artillery, which I consider one of the main instruments of war. One of the greatest blows that can be inflicted on the enemy is artillery fire. It serves in the same manner as a lubricant to a machine. It propels it ahead and provides the necessary force, the smoothness, and the motivation for the forward movement, for our attacking Ground Forces, which are our real forces. This is the main task assigned to them. If there were no artillery fire, the Ground Forces would be like a machine without lubricant, even if they were a strong and firm. [passage omitted]

God willing, may you be successful and may we be blessed with the perception to appreciate you all. May God's blessings be upon you.

Velayati Interviewed on Progress of UN Talks

NC2807195988 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati in New York by an unidentified correspondent of the Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran on 28 July—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Velayati, you have had three rounds of talks with the UN secretary general and one round of discussions with the UN Security Council. Could you please tell us the outcome of these talks?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With salutations to the imam of the nation, the Islamic fighters, and the vigilant and successful nation of Iran. [Words indistinct] and the result of our first round of talks with the UN secretary general was that he presented his proposals for the implementation of Resolution No 598 within the framework of his plan that are found in some specific phrases related to the clauses of the resolution and the executive plan.

Later, we had a second round of talks with the UN secretary general and our discussions centered on the same issue. Within 24 hours we submitted the Islamic Republic's official response to the UN secretary general's proposals. In general, our assessment of the UN secretary general's proposals was most positive, and eventually we reached a consensus.

[Correspondent] Mr Velayati, what was the UN secretary general and the Security Council chairman's opinion of the Islamic Republic's position?

[Velayati] Yesterday, after our third round of talks with the secretary general, he told correspondents based at the UN Headquarters that the current talks were constructive and expressed his appreciation for Iran's approach to the [words indistinct] of his proposals. He described Iran's approach as positive.

[Correspondent] We have been informed that the British representative at the United Nations visited you at your home. Why did he request such a meeting?

[Velayati] The British UN representatiave is one of the coordinators of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and, in fact, he came to see me in this capacity. He stated that the UN Security Council members were in complete agreement on Resolution No 598 and the UN secretary general's plan.

[Correspondent] That was what I wanted to know. We heard it reported in the news that Iraq experienced a political shock as a result of this action by the Islamic Republic. I would like to know Your Excellency's opinion of this matter.

[Velayati] Yes. As I remarked to newspaper and international mass media correspondents, there are numerous examples of Iraq's political and military obstructionism. I pointed out that the Iraqis have made various contradictory statements. The Iraqi UN representative in New York says one thing, while their foreign minister says something different. What will actually happen is something else again. This means there is a contradiction between their (?thoughts), words, and deeds. This only proves that at this stage, this sensitive juncture in the imposed war, they can merely react to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Their behavior shows how infuriated they are.

When the Iraqi foreign minister and the Iraqi UN reprsentative announced that their forces were withdrawing to international borders, they announced different times! I presented reasons, as well as irrefutable documentary evidence, to the secretary general and to the UN Security Council chief, showing that they are lying and will continue their provocations against our borders and that their forces will continue to intrude into our territory. Their airplanes will also continue to rain chemical bombs on the heads of our innocent people. All this is completely contradictory to Iraq's claims that it is cooperating fully with the UN secretary general. This has been confirmed now. All the UN Security Council members are well aware of this and now endorse what we said.

[Correspondent] I thank you very much, Mr Velayati, for participating in this interview.

Larijani Interviewed on Gulf Cease-Fire

PM2807114388 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 27 Jul 88 p 13

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani by correspondent Guido Barendson in Tehran; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Question] Mr Larijani, the fighting is as intense now as in the early days, in September 1980. Are you able to resist the recent attacks?

[Answer] The comparison is a fair one. At the start of the war the Iraqis were carried away by their large quantities of tanks and other weapons. However, these were not enough to enable them to defeat us. Invading Iran is a much more difficult undertaking than that. Now they are repeating the same errors, underrating our defensive capability and forgetting that our military and moral potential is the same as it was 8 years ago. Moreover, we are much more determined. Only yesterday we destroyed more than 250 armored vehicles in a single engagement.

[Question] This was to have been the week of negotiations at the "Glass Palace" [UN Headquarters]. Why do you think Saddam Husayn decided on this new offensive?

[Answer] The Iraqis have never been seriously interested in implementing Resolution No 598, and their aggression has produced nothing but death and massive destruction. Nevertheless, they are putting forward the same scheme again. They have failed to realize that aggression against Iran does not pay. Occupying our territory will not give them greater weight at the negotiating table. It is hard for us to talk to a regime like the one in Baghdad, obsessed as it is with power and force.

Even before the war they were interfering in the affairs of their neighbors, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. Then they turned their weapons on the revolution. However, if they think they can alter the rules of the game by means of this occupation, they are grossly mistaken. The response will be war. That is the real threat today, for the entire international community. If they penetrate deep into our territory, we will have no choice but to defend ourselves.

[Question] If the situation becomes difficult, will you resort to chemical weapons?

[Answer] We do not want to use chemical weapons. However, the Iraqis have used them and are using them on a wide scale, even in the past few hours, in the Bakhtaran [placename as published] area. Perhaps other countries are taking advantage of the Iraqi crimes to experiment on us and study the effects of the gases.

I will admit to you that our chemical weapons supply is ready. They are a means of defense on which various nations rely. But even against toxic gases there are technical and medical defenses to reduce the resulting damage. Therefore, our strategy is based on two principles: strong forward

defense, and deterrence. The Iraqis must stop using gas; otherwise it will cost us very little to produce gas grenades. We hope the day will never come when everyone has to carry a gas-mask in their shopping bag.

[Question] How many casualties have there been in the past few days?

[Answer] Many, a substantial number, most of them affected precisely by toxic gas, including both soldiers and civilians. In Bakhtaran alone, hundreds have been killed this morning.

[Question] You do not have precise figures?

[Answer] No, but it is a bloodbath. They are pouring down on us like Mongol hordes, barbarians attacking our villages. This is a vile war. Life means nothing to them. They have lost thousands of men in recent weeks.

[Question] Does not the non-use of chemical weapons limit your capacity for counterattack?

[Answer] The decision has been made by Imam Khomeyni, who is opposed to the use of gas, as many other leaders are. True, it does cause us problems, but we are striving to nullify the worst effects of these weapons.

[Question] When Khomeyni announced the acceptance of Resolution No 598—"for me it is like taking poison"—he added there were reasons that could not yet be revealed. What are they?

[Answer] You are talking to someone who has been concerned with the resolution for more than a year—they call it "Larijani's baby"—and I can assure you that this was no improvised decision but the outcome of long and thorough reflection. There is another fundamental aspect of the question, however, and that is the nature of the conflict: At the outset it was a bilateral conflict unleashed by Iraqi aggression; then it became regional; until one day we noticed that it now taken on an international dimension. What was going to be the best response? To choose the lesser evil, accepting some sacrifice to avert an even wider conflict.

In subscribing to Resolution No 598 Imam Khomeyni adopted a very courageous position, and it was no tactical choice: We really do want peace with Iraq, to prevent the war from getting completely out of control.

[Question] Why did you not accept the resolution when you were winning, 6 months ago? Do you not think that waiting so long led to your losing the occupied territories in such a short space of time?

[Answer] We do not accept the logic of military power, so we asked ourselves: Where are our defense lines? The answer was: within our borders. Thus we decided to withdraw. [passage omitted]

[Question] What role could Italy play in the future?

[Answer] Andreotti is a highly experienced politician. Italy is a member of the Security Council. So, now that the baby has been born, let us try to give it a peaceful life. If the Iraqis attempt to escalate the war—and that is what they appear to be doing—then someone needs to stop them. The international community must intervene. I cannot say more, but we are in close contact with Rome, intensive dialogue and discussions are in progress, and we are very pleased with the state of bilateral relations.

Next week we are expecting Foreign Trade Minister Renato Ruggieri here, and we are talking about an Andreotti visit, perhaps in September, before Genscher comes.

[Question] Are you going to achieve a cease-fire before the end of this week?

[Answer] The UN team is already here and will be going on to Baghdad. The team will then report to Perez de Cuellar, and it will be for him to make the announcement. From the technical viewpoint there is no difficulty. "D-Day" could dawn immediately.

Editorial Examines 'New' Position on Gulf War

PM2707083788 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 20 Jul 88 p 2

[Editorial by Mehdi Nasiri: "Present Circumstances and Our Mission"]

[Text] Iran's taking of a new position in regard to the war places us in a sensitive new situation, making it necessary to look at a few points:

1. With regard to the position that we now have adopted on the war, one must admit that the new position of the Islamic Republic of Iran, under the present conditions, was more in favor of the country and the revolution than any other solution. If this position had not been adopted, in the not-too-distant future very dangerous and crippling solutions very likely would have been imposed on us, placing us in a weak and worn-out situation.

The acceptance of Resolution No 598 gives us the opportunity once again to discuss with the world our strong opposition to warmongering and the spread of war thoughout the world and puts the aggressive enemy and its world supporters to a real test.

2. No one must ever think the revolution has given up its justice-seeking slogans. As we said, the new position was adopted to save the revolution's basis, to safeguard the country from possible damage. The hopes created in the hearts of the oppressed peoples must not turn sour.

The Islamic Revolution continues to stress its principles of neither West nor East, the continued struggle against the looters and international colonialists, and the exportation of its message, as well as liberation of Jerusalem from the claws of Zionism. The Great Satan, the United States, continues to be our number one enemy, and one must not ignore for one moment its tricks in the political-cultural field.

The revolution has never limited its mission to inside these borders, and we believe it is our duty to support the weak peoples of the world, particularly Muslims. As a matter of fact, now is the time to adopt more calculated, long-term plans to achieve the revolution's lofty goals, both inside and outside the country.

According to those who hold this view, the real situation becomes clear when we see that our enemies are not so happy about Iran's acceptance of Resolution No 598, bearing in mind the present circumstances on the fronts.

3. With the present situation, we have before us two sensitive duties, and it is vital to keep them separate. One duty is to examine with a fine toothed comb the war from its beginning up until now in order to discover why we have been placed in the present undesirable situation. Completion of this duty could provide a very valuable lesson for us and for our future.

The second duty is to maintain Islamic and national unity. A large portion of this task involves strengthening the present high-level and experienced officials and individuals in the revolution who follow the line of the imam. Now one must look with suspicion at those who try to adopt positions against the leading figures of the revolution. One must beware of any new rumors.

The result is that past and present shortcomings must be examined and their roots pinpointed. At the same time, one must avoid any words or actions that might deliver blows to the people's unity and weaken the principal officials of the revolution.

4. One must never under any circumstances forget or underestimate the enemy. The dangers of aggression against the country and the Islamic Revolution have not yet been removed. One could expect a madman like Saddam to undertake acts of aggression against us, as he did yesterday, despite Iran's acceptance of the UN resolution: His jet fighters attacked several economic, industrial, and residential areas.

If we think that the fronts no longer need fresh volunteer troops, this type of thinking is naive. Those whose hearts beat for the country, Islam, and the revolution must continue to fill the fronts in order to counter any moves by the enemy.

5. We all know it is necessary to comfort the families of the martyrs and those who are missing, and to justify the present situation to them. However, the way in which these treasures of the revolution, these examples of sacrifice and courage, are to be dealt with calls for a lot of care and attention. The idea that we should give available financial help and comfort to these people is weak and somewhat insulting to them.

We do not want to undermine the necessity of looking into the financial needs of the martyrs' families who, for the most part, come from the poorest classes of society, but the issue here is that this has to be dealt with in a sensitive and ideological manner.

Those who have lost a loved one on the fronts first of all think that they have achieved a great honor and been graced by God. Second, they only wanted to serve and safeguard the revolution and Islam and to follow the imam, their leader. So what would make them happy is not just to place financial help at their disposal, but rather to correctly justify the present condition of the war and whatever is best for the revolution and the country.

It is necessary to assure them that the Islamic Republic still stresses the continuation of their lofty ideals and those of their loved martyrs, and that it would never be willing to stop short of its spiritual goals. They must clearly understand that what has happened now is merely a change of tactics because of new circumstances, not because of a change of goals and slogans of the revolution.

Another point is that the Hezbollah people must deal sternly with those elements of the Devil who are opportunists and try to belittle Islamic and revolutionary values, thereby breaking the hearts of the respected families of martyrs. These elements must not be given the slightest oppportunity to undertake these devilish acts.

6. Our people and our government still mistrust international diplomatic channels. This mistrust will continue while the United states has control over the basis of international bodies. Dependence on the never-ending power of God and the people is at the top of our military, political, and economic programs, and international diplomatic routes will never replace this as our main support.

7. The East and the West have reached a deadlock over dealing in a hostile manner with the Islamic Revolution. Their long-term plans are economic, cultural, and political. If Resolution No 598 leads to peace, we must act in a clever manner in order not to fall into the various traps our enemies have set for us.

Of course, this discussion is so sensitive and important that we must look into it again soon, but for now this editorial is enough.

IRNA Recounts History of War With Iraq

LD2807221088 Tehran IRNA in English 2127 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Although much water has flowed under the bridges since the last 8 years, observers note a striking similarity between Iraqi goals then and now and the international attitude towards the two blatant Ba'thist invasions of Islamic Iran.

On the afternoon of September 22, 1980, when the self-styled hero of Qadasiyyah dreamt of rounding up a "great victory" over the new found Islamic Republic within a week, Saddam like all power drunk dictators least [as received] bothered to take into consideration the Iranian Muslim people's faith and pride.

Incidentally, it was that very afternoon of September 22, 1980 that shot up the proud Iranian Muslim's spirit of resistance and sacrifice and assured the hero of Qadasiyyah, a disgraceful end, that sooner or later seems to be the fate of all aggressors and tyrants.

That day, which will go down in history as "Saddam's Folly", 12 fully armed Ba'thist divisions stormed across the border into Iran from 4 points.

But for Iran, the day marks the blossoming of the people's great sacrifices for Islam, revolution and country, under the enlightened leadership of Imam Khomeyni.

Today, almost 8 years later the country is in the grip of a similar wave of joy and ecstasy, as Iranians from every walk of life, vie with one another to be the first to deliver blows on the cowardly invader.

At that time, under the false pretext that Iran was trying to interfere in its internal affairs, and citing some alleged disputes over the Arvand River waterway, the Ba'thist regime had violated the territorial integrity of the Islamic Republic, occupying hundreds of square kms of Iranian soil.

It is also worth recalling that a few days prior to that black September afternoon, the Iraqi ruler had unilaterally abrogated the 1975 Algiers Pact defining the two countries' international borders, to which ironically he himself was the signatory.

With large tracts of Iran's border territory under its control, Baghdad claimed it had no covetous eyes on Iranian soil and called for negotiations. Saddam even had the audacity to say that his invasion was aimed at "restoring democracy" in Iran and Iranians are now free to choose their type of government.

And the interesting point to note is international bodies did not even make a slight protest and instead contented themselves by calling for "an immediate ceasefire" to the conflict.

There is a famous Iranian proverb which runs "The liar soon forgets", and curiously enough it snugly fits Mr. Saddam Husayn.

The Iraqi ruler is obviously the very personification of evil. Despite claiming he had no covetous eyes on Iranian soil, he tried to rename Khorramshahr as "Mohammara", and Khuzestan as "Arabistan", and started adding the Arabic prefix "Al" to Ahvaz and many other border towns and villages of the southern Iranian province.

History is a witness to the world community's response to the Iraqi invasion. None condemned Baghdad's blatant aggression. On the contrary it was Islamic Iran which was accused of "destabilizing peace".

Most of the world countries kept an ominous silence, while there were others who mischeivously chuckled to themselves at the plight of the oppressed Islamic Republic.

For their own part the major Eastern and Western powers not only made sure that no just resolution will ever come out of the United Nations concerning the Iraqi war, but secretly beefed up the Ba'thist aggressor's armoury with all the latest weaponry.

To cite an instance, only 6 days after the Iraqi invasion, with hundreds of kms of Iranian soil under enemy occupation, the Security Council called for an immediate ceasefire, and the then U.S. envoy at the U.N. Donald McHenry, is on record as saying "If Iraq asks for help in its war, Washington is ready to provide Baghdad with all necessary military hardware".

If Western arrogance was flexing its muscles on the side of the aggressor, certainly Eastern arrogance did not lag behind, and Moscow despite its promises of "neutrality" in the imposed war, send tanks and warplanes to the Ba'thist regime.

But Iran's heroic Muslims were the least awed by Saddam's borrowed might and relying on their profound faith in Islam proved to world arrogance they were made of sterner stuff. The epic resistance which unfolded not only drove out the invader from Iranian soil but time and again reminded world bodies the wisdom of letting the Ba'thist aggressor go scot free.

Iran pleaded its case, but the world continued to ignore its warnings and instead tried to project the Iraqi regime as a "peace lover" and misportrayed the oppressed Islamic Republic as a "war-monger."

The much voiced fears finally came true. Barely 24 hours after Iran's historic acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 (July 18) the enemy which until now had feigned peace, suddenly bared its fangs and claws, raiding two industrial plants in southern Iran.

Misinterpreting as "a sign of weakness" Iran's goodwill for the sake of Islam and peace, the "Hero of Qadasiyyah" or should we use the more appropriate title "the villain", again sent his ungodly hordes across the border on July 20 this year, proving to the whole world that terror and crime is an inherent part of Ba'thist nature.

To sum up, the whole scenario presents a striking resemblance. Right from September 22, 1980, up to the present Iraqi invasion, Baghdad's sinister aims as also the world's reaction vis-a-vis their crimes have remained same.

If world attitude towards the conflict remains unchanged so also the mountain-like firmness of Iranian Muslims.

Today, the world is again witnessing the enthusiasm of Iran's cheerful Muslim combatants who are joyously marching forward for the sacred defense, determined to ward off the invader or face martyrdom in the process.

In answer to the call of the leader of the Islamic Revolution, men of all ages are creating epics at the war fronts and are giving the blundering aggressor a taste of their steel.

As they drove out Ba'thist troops before, Iran's Muslim combatants are re-enacting the same scenes of valour and sacrifice and will soon make the world see that victory belongs to the party of Allah, and the fate of the aggressor is definitely sealed off both in this world and the hereafter.

Saddam Orders Popular General 'Killed'

LD2807124688 Tehran IRNA In English 1220 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus, July 28, IRNA—A Syrian daily Thursday claimed that the commander of Iraq's Third Corps Lieutenant General Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid had been killed on Saddam Husayn's direct orders.

General 'Abd al-Rashid was reportedly killed last week after his chopper, "bombed upon Saddam's orders" was blasted in mid-air, Damascus-based daily AL-THAWRAH disclosed.

The daily said following the escalation of discontent within the ranks of the Iraqi Army and people over the dire consequences of the war the Ba'thists imposed on Iran, Saddam had decided to purge the army from his opponents.

'Abd al-Rashid had received many medals from Saddam and become very popular within the Iraqi Army, the paper said, adding that this had caused Saddam to feel danger and therefore ordered his security agents to explode 'Abd al-Rashid's helicopter and kill him.

Volunteer Forces Continue To Go to Fronts

Finance Minister, Bank Workers

LD2807205088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] IRNA reports that the economic affairs and finance minister has departed for the battlefronts. He was accompanied by a number of his deputies; the governor of the Central Bank; the managing director of Bank Melli; a number of board members and directors of the banks; 500 employees of subsidiary organizations of the Economic Affairs and Finance Ministry; a number of deputies to the minister of transport and roads; directors general and officials; and a large number of combat specialists and mobilization forces from the Transport and Roads Ministry.

Workers, Clergy, Tribesmen

LD2807150888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Summary] A large number of mobilization forces, local government employees, employees of a variety revolutionary institutions and bodies, including the Reconstruction Jihad, the popular forces made up of all strata including university teachers and students, tribesmen, clergymen, and seminary students left for the fronts from the districts and towns of various parts of the country, including the cities and townships of Qom, Yazd, Sari, Gorgan, Mahallat, Rasht, and Yasuj.

In some places, Friday prayer leaders in combat dress led the cereonies and saw the convoys off. The dispatched forces included trained, specialized, and combat-experienced volunteers.

Religious Officials 'Invited'

LD2807185488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, the Tehran Friday prayers leader invited other Friday prayers leaders, religious assembly leaders, and clergymen to go to the fronts. The Friday prayers leaders of Mamasani, Rezvanshahr, Alavijeh, Saqqez, Khonsar, Kangan, (Sa'ndezh), and (Bo'in-e Miyandasht), a group of clergymen and seminarians of Hamadan, Kerman, Saqqez, and a number of Sunni clergymen of Bushehr Province departed for the fronts in order to assist the fighters of Islam.

'Thousands' of Popular Forces

LD2807221788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] The intense movement of popular combat forces toward the fronts from throughout the country continued today with broad dimensions. Thousands of fresh popular forces departed for the fronts to assist the proud fighters of Islam and combat the aggressor enemy.

According to reports from Central News Unit correspondents, the cities of Esfahan, Bushehr, Sandanaj, Zahedan, Hamadan, Kashan, Saqesh, Jahrom, Nagdeh, Najafabad, Khomeynishahr, (Feydan), Khvonsar, Golpayegan, Ardestan, Natanz, Na'in, Shah Reza, (Zarinshahr), Burqan, Mobarekeh, (Malekashtar), Falavarjan, Malayer, (Tuserkan), Nahavand, Bahar, Razan, Bahmani, Kabudarahang, Asabad, (Shara), (Khezel), (Bamen), Yasuj, Deh Dag, Sisakht, Rahneshk, Karand, (Langeh), Shahr-e Kord, Lordegan, Borujen, Farsan and (Zarindezh) were the scene today for the extensive departure of popular combat forces for the war fronts.

The following left for the fronts: a group of fighters from Mazandaran Province, a number of the nonmilitary personnel of the Islamic Republic's Navy, 50 percent of the personnel of Semnan Province's literacy foundation, and the students, lecturers, and staff of the Supreme Judicial Council's legal science college, 70 percent of the personnel of the Jihad of Esfahan University, and 50 percent of that province's Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation's employees.

Army Commander Denies Loss of Jets, Helicopters

LD2807154588 Tehran IRNA in English 1533 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—A senior Army commander today refuted Iraqi regime's claims that it had shot down two Iranian jets and a helicopter yesterday.

The commander said Iraqi troops have sustained substantial losses during the consistent operations of the Iranian Air Force jets and Army Aviation Service (Havaniruz) helicopter gunships.

Stressing that all Iranian warplanes and helicopters returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out thier missions Wednesday, the commander said Baghdad resorts to such lies in a vain bid to boost the crushed morale of its forces.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Helicopter Missions Noted

LD2707155288 Tehran IRNA in English 1511 GMT 27 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Helicopter-gunships of the Iranian Army Aviation Service (Havaniruz) flew 120 combat sorties before noon today, heavily pounding Iraqi positions throughout the warfronts, Havaniruz commander told IRNA here today.

The commander said that Iraqi forces, suffering heavy casualties and losses, were forced to flee from Iranian territory in the western and southern sectors during the Iranian helicopter attacks.

Havaniruz has carried out a total of 411 tactical and logistical missions during the recent Iranian operations in the western and southern fronts, he concluded.

Frontier Tribes To Defend Border

LD2807171588 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—Iran's valiant frontier tribesmen are in great spirit and are determined to continue their defence of the Islamic Republic till they push out all Iraqi invaders back to the international borders.

According to reports reaching here from Ilam (western Iran), the brave provincial people, especially the youths, are fully armed and are prepared to decisively counter any possible moves by the enemy forces. All resistance bases of the town of Ilam are now at the disposal of its ever-alert valiant citizens.

Since the past few days, Ilam and Bakhtaran Provinces have witnessed epics created by the brave tribesmen who have turned the enemy dreams into nightmares.

Territory 'Liberated' From MKO

LD2807130288 Tehran IRNA in English 1242 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Bakhtaran, July 28, IRNA—Muslim forces of Iran during their last night's operations in western Iran liberated over 150 sq. kms of Iranian territory and are making further advances, reports reaching here from the war theater said. They said wreckages of enemy's armoured hardware and vehicles are seen burning in the war fronts with bodies of a large number of members of the outlawed MKO [Mojahedin-e Khalq] group, among them several women and girls, scattered around.

Scores of vehicles and armoured personnel carriers with the emblem of MKO group on their sides were also seized intact by Iranian forces.

General Command HQ on Successes

LD2807174888 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] According to an IRNA report, operations of the forces of Islam—consisting of mobilization forces, the IRGC, and the Islamic Republic's Army—continue with full force in suppressing the enemy in the northwest areas of the country.

According to a report of the General Command Headquarters from the operational zones in the northwestern part of the country, IRGC fighters, continuing their move to repulse the aggression of the Iraqi Ba'thist regime, in a coordinated action this morning succeeded in capturing two important heights, (Herj-e Faqiran) and (Katerash), in the Shiler area in the northwest frontier strip. They have taken up positions there.

During these operations the fighters of Islam killed more than 780 mercenaries of the Iraqi Ba'thist Army and drove them out of the area. After completely wiping out the enemy presence there they consolidated their positions. During these operations, besides capturing dozens of Ba'thist mercenaries, the fighters of Islam inflicted heavy damages on the war machine of the enemy.

Also during a surprise operation north of the Shiler region in the northwest frontier strip, the fighters of the IRGC commando units killed or wounded dozens of the aggressor Iraqi Army forces. In these operations, 20 enemy tanks, personnel

carriers, and vehicles were also destroyed. Quantities of light and heavy weapons of the Iraqi Ba'thist Army were captured by the fighters of Islam.

The intense fire of the brave men of the Islamic Republic's Army, brought down a helicopter of the aggressor Iraqi forces in the Sumar operational zone. The pilot of the downed helicopter, identified as Major Mahmud 'Abdullah Dawwud, has been captured by the fighters stationed in this area. He has been wounded in the leg.

The fast flying eagles of Iran's Army Aviation unit in their operations today carried out 152 operational and [words indistinct] missions in the operational zones in the western sector in support of the powerful activities of the Army of Islam. They also pounded the forces of the defeated Iraqi Army.

Brave pilots of the Air Force, in 23 separate operations, using their fighter-bombers at 0635, 0650, 0854, 0955, 0957, 1041, 1050, 1100, 1200, 1215, 1230, 1240, 1440, 1445, 1447, 1509, 1557, 1625, 1800, 1815, 1810 and 1925 today heavily bombed the positions of the troops, supplies, and armored concentration centers of the aggressor Iraqi Army and their mercenaries in the western operational zone. After inflicting heavy damage on the enemy they all returned safely to their bases.

Eslamabad-e Gharb Swept 'Clean'

NC2907065088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0635 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention. In continuation of the Marsad operations, the powerful forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran inflicted heavy damages and killed many of the aggressive enemy last night. The soldiers of Islam in the west of the country inflicted heavy blows on the worn-out body of the Ba'thist regime and its hypocritical mercenaries [Mojahedin-e Khalq], and they completely swept the city of Eslamabad-e Gharb clean from the existence of Ba'thist aggressors and hypocrites.

1,000 'Mercenary' Casualties

NC2907070788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0655 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O ummah of Islam; O Muslim Iranian nation. In their operations last night, which were full of epic-making and selflessness and which led to the liberation of vast areas of the Islamic homeland in the western region from the forces of the Ba'thist Iraqi regime and from the mercenary monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq], the brave and powerful combatants of the army of Islam were able to kill or wound more than 1,000 of them and to destroy large quantities of their heavy and semi-heavy materiel, and to also take a quantity of this materiel intact as booty. Presently, the forces of Islam are advancing toward determined objectives and are inflicting heavy damage on the enemy forces.

20 Enemy Brigades 'Destroyed'

NC2907071488 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0703 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O epic-making Iranian nation, please pay attention. O brave Iranian nation, please pay attention. In continuation of the Marsad operations, the fighters of the army of Islam continue to inflict their strong blows on the aggressive Ba'thist enemy and on its monafeqin [Mojahedin-e Khalq] mercenaries. The aggressive Iraqi regime, which has faced international pressure since the Islamic Republic wisely decided to accept Resolution No 598, is using the monafeqin as its mercenaries.

During yesterday afternoon and last night's operations, the fighters of Islam destroyed more than 20 joint brigades of the aggressive Iraqi Army and of the monafeqin.

Also, on the Eslamabad axes the brave fighters of Islam were able to destroy 700 vehicles and 200 tanks and APC's of the enemy.

Karand Reportedly Falls

NC2907073288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0722 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] O heroic people of Islamic Iran. In continuation of the victorious Marsad operations, the brave fighters of the army of Islam, after completely surrounding the heroic city of Karand and after a heavy battle with the Zionist forces of the Baghdad regime and their hypocritical mercenaries, were able to completely liberate and clean up this city. In these victorious operations, the forces of Islam killed a large number of the enemy's forces and a large number of the misled are surrendering to the powerful soldiers of Islam.

900 Vehicles Destroyed

LD2907082588 Tehran IRNA in English 0816 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 29, IRNA—Iran's Muslim combatants succeeded in destroying 200 enemy tanks and 700 personnel carriers in Thursday's battles against Iraqi aggressors and their mujahidin (MKO) mercenaries in Western Iran.

During the operations 20 joint Iraqi-MKO brigades were routed by Iranian forces who also inflicted heavy casualties on the invading troops.

According to latest reports reaching here Iranian combatants are continuing their advance to crush enemy troops and achieve their pre-determined targets.

Iraqi Vessels Pursued in Gulf

LD2807192788 Tehran IRNA in English 1843 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 28, IRNA—In the course of its routine patrol missions Iran's Air Force reconnoitered 38 foreign warships and 29 commercial vessels, oil tankers, and boats in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman on Wednesday.

While, at the northern tip of the Persian Gulf Iran's naval units chased away nine Iraqi vessels around Khawr 'Abdallah waters, and Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah platforms.

The anti-aircraft fire of Iranian units also forced two unidentified planes intending to violate the air space of a southern Iranian island. [sentence as received]

Airbus Crash Investigation Team Arrives

LD2907080988 Tehran IRNA in English 0722 GMT 29 July 88

[Text] Tehran, July 29 IRNA—A five-man team comprising high-ranking experts from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) arrived here early this morning to investigate the U.S. Navy attack on an Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf this month which killed all 290 civilians aboard.

The delegation is due to visit Tehran international airport, Bandar-e 'Abbas airport, from where the plane took off for Dubayy but minutes later [was] hit by two missiles fired from the USS Vincennes, an American warship stationed in the Persian Gulf, as well as the site of the plane crash over the Iranian island of Hengam in the Strait of Hormuz.

The ICAO experts are to stay in Iran for one week.

Sri Lanka

Peace Pact Anniversary Draws Strict Security

BK2807111388 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Tight security measures have been put into effect to maintain law and order [on the eve of the first anniversary of the India-Sri Lanka accord]. Police told LANKAPUVATH that the 25,000 strong police force has taken all necessary measures with the assistance of the security forces to protect life and property throughout the country. High frequency mobile and foot patrols are being maintained round-the-clock throughout the island. Vehicles are being checked for weapons.

Extra guards have been placed at key points. Additional riot squads are now in position to move into any troubled area immediately. Police are carrying out intensive search operations to apprehend criminals. Surveillance has also been intensified. According to the police sources appropriate action will be taken against any person or persons attempting to disturb the normal life of the people.

Instructions have also been given to the security forces to use maximum force where necessary to prevent acts of sabotage, intimidation, and threats to life and property or any interference with the essential services necessary for the well-being of the community.

Curfew Extended

BK2907061688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0551 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Colombo, July 29 (AFP)—The government Friday [29 July] extended the area under a 48-hour curfew in southern Sri Lanka amid reports that Sinhalese militants were planning acts of violence to mark the anniversary of an Indo-Sri Lankan agreement, officials here said. The curfew first imposed in Matara and Hambantota districts was extended to neighbouring Galle district, and the government ordered security forces to use maximum force against troublemakers, the officials said.

The move came after the dominant Tamil separatist group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), massacred 14 Sinhalese farmers Thursday in the north-eastern village of Welioya.

Observers said the curfew apparently aimed to prevent a Sinhalese backlash against minority Tamils and to break a planned general strike by the anti-government Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP), or People's Liberation Front.

Both the JVP and the LTTE called a general strike for Friday to protest the first anniversary of the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord that sought to end a Tamil separatist campaign that has claimed at least 9,500 lives since 1983. The JVP, which has its stronghold in the south, has called for its own curfew in the region and urged people to switch off lights after dark Friday to symbolise that the "nation is in darkness." In Colombo, fewer people than usual were out on the streets and many shops remained closed, but officials said it was difficult to gauge if this was due to the JVP call.

"Many people may have taken a day off today to enjoy a longer weekend because yesterday was a Buddhist holiday," an official said, but added that private buses kept off the streets, fearing reprisal attacks by the JVP.

A military spokesman here said there were no immediate reports of curfew violations and the situation appeared to be under control. Heavily armed police and troops

remained on maximum alert for the third straight day Friday, following intelligence reports that the JVP was planning violence to mark the anniversary, the spokesman said. Some 49,000 Indian troops deployed in the island's north and east were also on red alert to prevent fresh violence by the LTTE, he said. [passage omitted]

Efforts Continue To Reach Agreement With LTTE
BK2807162088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jul 88

[Text] Informed sources in New Delhi say that efforts are continuing to arrive at an agreement with the LTTE on restoring normalcy in Sri Lanka. They hope that the LTTE will see reason and give up the path of violence and join the democratic process. They were optimistic that a settlement with the LTTE would be reached soon.

Meanwhile, the sources said the Peacekeeping Force [PKF] is doing its job of disarming the militants. It has done an exceedingly good job within the constraints in which it is operating. The PKF has destroyed one LTTE camp in the jungles of Mullaittivu District. The PKF has also raided two militant camps at Pankulam in Trincomalee area and the other at Tirrukkovil in Batticaloa sector.

A PKF spokesman told our correspondent that a huge quantity of arms and ammunition and explosives was recovered during the raids. During the search operations in the last 2 days, at least 12 LTTE men have been killed and 6 wounded; 8 were captured. The PKF lost one soldier and two were injured.

5 Killed in South; Curfew Imposed on Province
BK2907092288 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Jul 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, two security personnel and three suspected extremists of Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna were killed in the south of the island in separate incidents this morning.

The entire Southern Province has been put under curfew. At least eight buses were burned by a gang of extremists.

Meanwhile, a massive hunt has been launched in the districts of Trincomalee and Anuradhapura for a gang of LTTE men wanted in connection with yesterday's killing of 14 Sinhalese.

Paper Calls LTTE Cease-Fire Offer 'Ruse'
BK2507152788 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 18 Jul 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Another Ruse by the Tigers?"]

[Text] According to reports quoting THE HINDU attack orders from Prabhakaran to his units in the Vavuniya-Mullaitivu area have drawn a poor response.

The Indians, it is said, have interpreted this as a measure of the pressure under which the LTTE command must be, since the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] launched its Operation Checkmate. That could well be one view.

Another might be that the LTTE could be up to another ruse: making a pretence of cracking up while busying itself in some other tactic. Certainly, it is difficult to conclude—from the record of daily killings in the north and in the east—that the LTTE is a spent force.

Certainly, the LTTE has had an unenviable record of talking peace and preparing for war. The reservation with which people in Colombo, then, received the news of its latest peace overtures seems to have been amply justified.

Having engaged the Indian authorities in negotiations, the LTTE has now asked for a 5-day cease-fire and a 5-month period to lay down arms.

Surely, such conditions must strain the credulity of the most guileless minds? The Indians have always been renowned for their sagacity, so that it may be a slur on their own perceptivity to entertain negotiations on that note.

True, the Indians have rejected the two demands relating to a cease-fire and a prolonged moratorium for the surrender of weapons. But there could be many who might have preferred it if the Indian negotiators had asked the LTTE to go back—and return only after a change of mood.

It is heartening, of course, to have a clear assurance that the Government of India remains fully committed to the implementation of the July accord. Few, indeed, have had any doubts on that score.

But, sections of the Indian authorities could be less familiar with the depth of treachery that our guerrillas in Sri Lanka are capable of. And treachery, after all, marks out the main line of action in guerrilla warfare in most parts of the world. The Indian authorities could, thus, still have some lingering faith that the LTTE will live up to its word: will maintain some semblance of honour. But in Sri Lanka most people question the sincerity of the Tigers.

Knowing that they cannot defeat India, the LTTE could be seeking to put them off their guard. So far, the Indians have not been unmindful of the perfidy that the LTTE was guilty of a year ago. What is more, there are heartening signs of a stiffening Indian attitude.

It may be in the interests of all concerned if the LTTE were reminded that most people do not walk into the same trap twice!